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metroNEWS

MPs mourning one of their own

GRIEF

41-year-old returned to Ottawa after surgery on his leg

A day that normally would have seen parliamentarians pulling out their sharpest partisan darts was instead replaced by a rare coming-together of MPs Wednesday after the sudden death of Alberta Conservative MP Jim Hillyer.

The 41-year-old died in his office after returning to Ottawa this week following surgery to treat an infection in his leg.

He came back for the Liberal budget on Tuesday, and what should have been the first day of debate on it was instead deferred to honour Hillyer's life and work.

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose wiped away tears as she rose, referring to Hillyer as a colleague and friend with a goofy sense of hu-

mour who used his determination to champion causes including cancer advocacy and justice system reform.

A bouquet of red roses sat on his desk in the chamber Wednesday as leaders rose to pay tribute.

Hillyer broke his leg in a skiing accident in 2013 and took three weeks off for surgery and rehabilitation. But he was plagued with infections that required subsequent surgeries.

News of the tragedy had spread as MPs gathered for their weekly caucus meetings on the Hill. Some Conservatives heard the news as they arrived at offices in the same building as Hillyer's, just across the street from the Peace Tower.

Hillyer was a cancer survivor and had a bone marrow transplant in 2003.

He leaves a wife and four children.

Jim Hillyer
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

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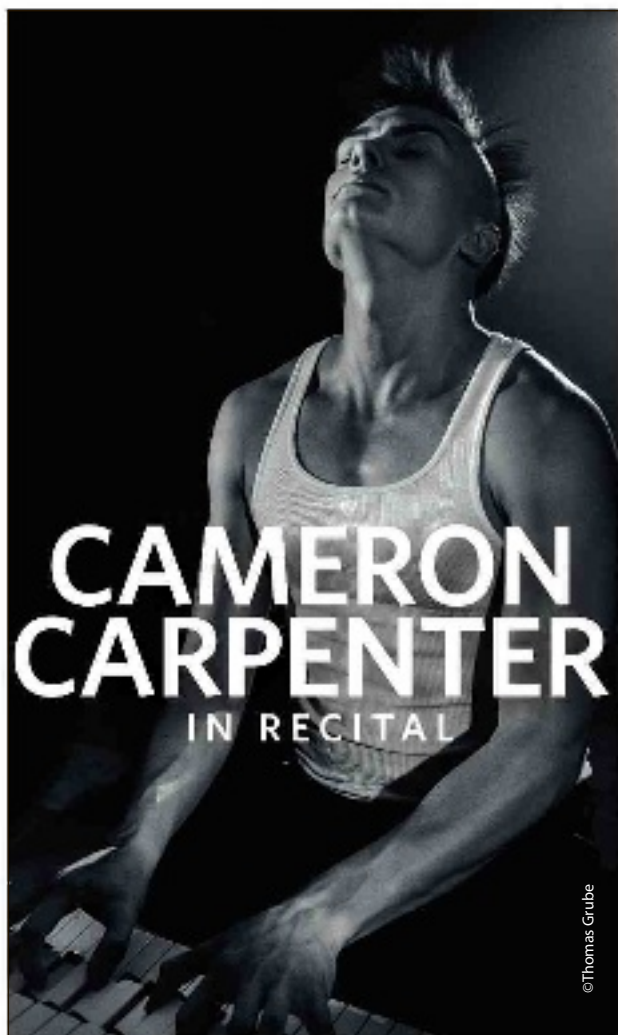
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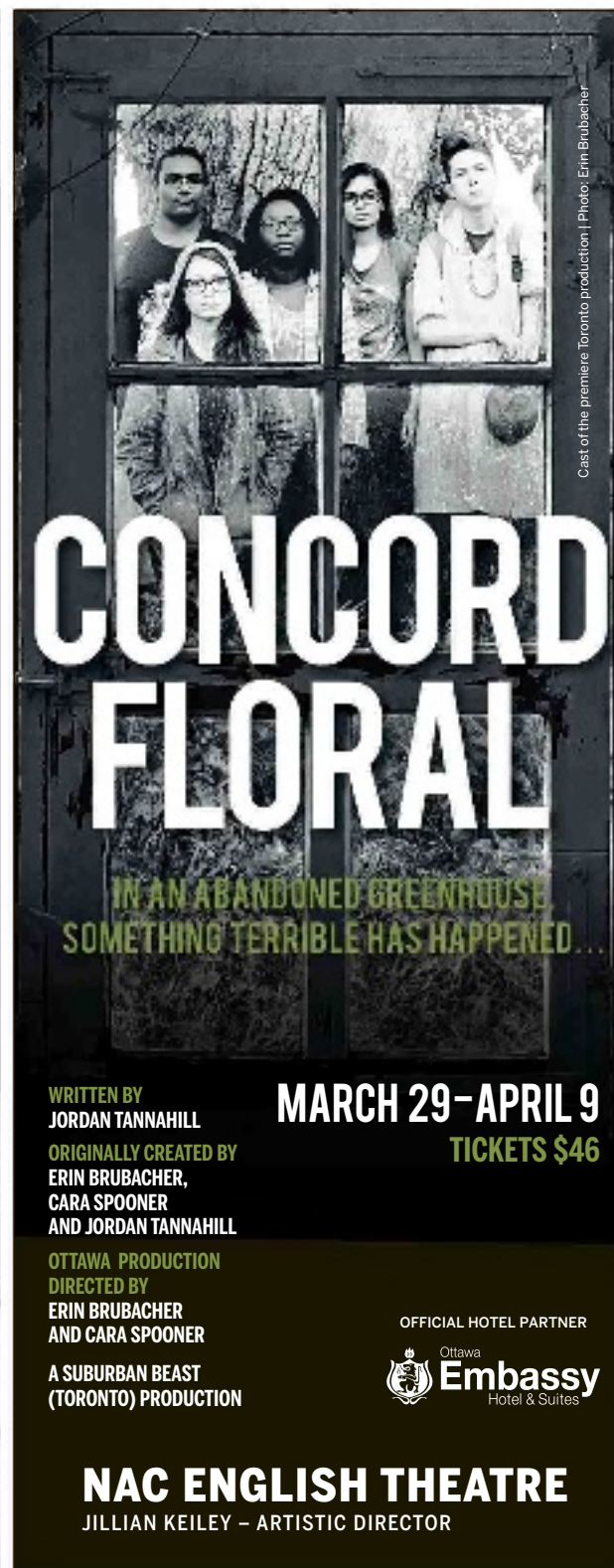
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5

THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA THIS LONG WEEKEND

Look out for Easter egg hunts, maple treats and two fashion shows in the capital this Easter weekend.

HALEY RITCHIE METRO

1

Easter bunnies and eggs (Saturday)

Hop on down to any number of Easter egg events this weekend for some family fun. On Saturday, the Billings Estate will host an annual Easter egg hunt at a cost of \$6.15 per person from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kids can explore the grounds and collect eggs that can be exchanged for chocolate, get their photo with the Easter Bunny, decorate baskets and dye eggs. Alternatively the Cumberland Heritage Village is charging regular admission for the Curious Cottontail's Easter event at the same time.



2

Home and garden show (all weekend)

The home and garden show returns for all your spring reno needs. Hundreds of vendors will be gathered at the EY Centre from Friday to Monday. Award-winning landscapers and designers will be giving presentations as well. Regular adult tickets are \$13 with an online discount available at ottawahomeshow.com.

5

Indigenius art, music and fashion show (Saturday)

The third annual Indigenius cultural show is coming to Centrepointhe Theatre this Saturday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. The show aims to inspire young people through their creative genius. Tickets for the evening are \$45 and available at iamf.ca. Those interested in offering more support to the organization can get a ticket and other bonuses by committing to \$10-a-month subscription to Tr1be magazine.

PHOTO: MANITOBAH MUKLUK WOMEN'S BEAR GATHERER



4

Easter farm fun (all weekend)

Celebrate Easter weekend and the arrival of spring by meeting the Museum of Agriculture's newest lambs, rabbits and chicks. Children aged six and under can hunt for eggs, kids aged seven and older can participate in a spring scavenger hunt and everyone can learn about the making of chocolate and taste a sample in the demo kitchen. Easter programming runs Friday though Monday. Family admission to the farm is \$30 and a d u l t admission is \$11.



3

Vintage fashion show night (Saturday)

In honour of International Women's Day, downtown Kinki Lounge is hosting Hop, Hustle Pop & Lock, a benefit fashion show for Harmony House. Tickets are \$22 and get you entry to the vintage fashion show celebrating the '50s and '60s, an appetizer plate and a local drink. A quarter of the dinner proceeds go to Harmony House and there will also be raffle tickets for sale. The show starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday.



What's open, closed

Get ahead of irregular city service and business hours this Easter long weekend with our list of what's open and closed over the holiday in the Ottawa area.

CITY SERVICES

- Ottawa City Hall and all seven Client Service Centres located at 110 Laurier Ave. W. will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.
- All branches and services of the Ottawa Public Library will be closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. They operate as usual on Saturday, March 26.
- City-operated Child Care Centres will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

PARKING AND TRANSIT

- All regular city parking regulations and restrictions will apply over the long weekend.
- OC Transpo will operate a Sunday schedule on Good Friday. On Easter Monday there will be minor schedule reductions and school routes numbered in the 600s and supplementary school trips will not be in operation.

RECREATION

- Some city-run pools, fitness centres and arenas will be open on Good Friday and Easter Monday with modified schedules for public swimming, skating and fitness classes. Most pools, fitness centres and arenas will be open on Saturday and Easter Sunday.
- All Cineplex theatres, as well as Bytown Cinema, located at 325 Rideau St., will be open through Easter weekend.

GROCERIES AND RETAIL

- The Rideau Centre, Bayshore Shopping Centre, St. Laurent Shopping Centre, Place d'Orléans and Tanger Outlets will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- The ByWard Market will be open as usual from Good Friday through to Easter Monday.

ALCOHOL

- All Beer Store locations will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, but open regular hours on Easter Monday.
- All LCBO locations will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, though some will operate under extended business hours on March 24, and certain locations will operate under modified hours Easter Monday. METROLAND MEDIA



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Clean technology executives call on feds for national plan

ENVIRONMENT

Domestic support lags behind global markets: CEO



David Sali
Ottawa Business Journal

When Kevin Loiselle needed a partner to help finance the installation of his company's water management and sanitation systems, he had to jet across the Atlantic to find one.

The CEO of Kanata's Clearford Water Systems turned to Signina Capital, an asset management company in Zurich that specializes in water and sewage projects, because no fund in Canada would invest in his firm's clean technology.

Thanks to Signina, his growing enterprise now has access to a \$100-million fund from which its customers — most of which right now are Ontario municipalities — can borrow money to cover the construction and operation costs of its Clearford One system and repay the loan over a 30-year period. If the system doesn't work, the client doesn't pay.

Loiselle says the pay-for-performance model is the only sure way to convince budget-conscious municipalities to overcome the initial "sticker shock" and adopt multimillion-dollar technology that doesn't have an extensive track record.

"These big-priced items that are meant to last a generation or two, you don't want to make a mistake in purchasing one that doesn't end up working,"



TransAlta wind turbines are shown at a wind farm near Pincher Creek, Alta., March 9, 2016. **The clean technology sector has dramatically expanded over the last 10 years, transforming into a \$1-trillion global industry.** JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

he explains.

But even though Canada is considered a world leader in the clean-tech sector, he says the country's most innovative firms often have to look abroad for much-needed cash to finance such models, as well as fund more research and demonstration projects.

"We couldn't find that kind of support here in Canada, and that's a pity," he says. "Everywhere you go in the world, people are racing into this sector and Canada is already a significant player and, in many cases, leader. It's difficult to maintain that position if you're not going

to be supported."

Loiselle was reacting to a recent call from a British Columbia-based group of clean-tech investors and entrepreneurs for more government support

tees and venture capital funding as well as launch a task force of political and industry leaders to devise a national strategy for clean-tech investment and development.



We have fallen behind a lot of other countries over the last few years. Bill Crossland

to develop the sector.

The B.C. Cleantech CEO Alliance wrote Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in late February, urging the federal government to invest billions of dollars in loan guaran-

For Clearford's chief executive and many other clean-tech CEOs in Ottawa, such measures can't come soon enough. Loiselle, who tapped into another Swiss venture capital fund when he need-

ed equity, says he can't understand why Canadian investors have been so slow to jump on the clean-tech bandwagon.

"It would have been nice to have a fund like that here," he says. "There's a lot of money on the sidelines (in Canada) looking for a home to make a decent return. I would like to think that once we prove this concept that we will have large Canadian pension funds, for example, taking an interest in getting the kind of return that we can offer."

The global market for clean technology has expanded to more than \$1 trillion over the past 10 years, according to Ot-

tawa-based Analytica Advisors. Exports from the Canadian sector are now similar in value to those of forestry, mining and livestock.

In the National Capital Region alone, the sector employs about 4,600 people at more than 240 companies, according to Invest Ottawa. A recent study from the Kanata North BIA singled out clean-tech as an "area with robust growth potential."

Yet research from Analytica Advisors shows that Canada's share of the world clean-tech market has plummeted by 41 per cent since 2005. The country fell from 14th to 19th in total market share between 2008 and 2015, while competitors such as the United States, China, Germany, Singapore and Israel gained ground thanks to an influx of public and private-sector investment in new technologies.

It's time to reverse that trend, says Bill Crossland, CEO of Ottawa's Thermal Energy International.

"I think we do need a national policy and a national plan," says Crossland, whose company employs about 15 people in the capital and a total of 50 worldwide. "We have fallen behind a lot of other countries over the last few years. As a small Canadian company that sells our products in a number of countries around the world, we do notice that there's much more support in terms of energy efficiency and carbon reductions in other countries than there is in Canada."

Countries throughout Europe offer incentives such as tax breaks or government loans to encourage industry to adopt more energy-efficient technologies, a strategy he'd like to see adopted in Canada as well.



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Google is coming to Gatineau transit

TECH

Transport group signs agreement with web giant

Ashley Moffatt
Metro | Ottawa

The Société de transport de l'Outaouais, the public transit service across the Ottawa river, finally plans to make their routes available on Google transit.

"The Google transit online agreement has been signed," said Céline Gauthier, a spokeswoman for the transit service. "Google has received our data, and they gave us access to the preview, so we're doing some tests right now."

The STO plans to be up and running on Google transit by this summer. In the meantime, users are able to use some of the other tools available to plan their trips.

Last November, STO made their data available to app developers. "You can find the list of apps that have been developed on our website," said Gauthier. "So they can also use those tools."

STO lists three apps on their website that have been built



Google has received our data, and they gave us access to the preview, so we're doing some tests right now.

Céline Gauthier, Société de transport de l'Outaouais

based on their open data.

But Gauthier pointed out the apps only give you the same schedule that's printed in STO's

free pamphlet — meaning delays or cancellations will not be featured. She advises riders to use the Plani-Bus feature on their

website for the most accurate schedule. The same will be true of their Google transit inclusion.

Gauthier said that with the existing Plani-bus feature, Ontario bus riders can still plan their trip. "We've already been sharing our data with OC Transpo," said Gauthier.

Gauthier said that the Google transit tool would just serve as another tool riders can use when planning their bus trips.

POLITICS

Council wants more debate on photo radar

Ottawa councillors are not rushing a request to install photo radar on the city's streets.

On Wednesday, city council voted to refer a motion on the speedster-nabbing technology back down to the transportation committee.

This will allow a more "reasoned, informed and collaborative" decision on photo radar, said Knoxdale-Merivale Coun. Keith Egli.

His comments were in response to River Coun. Riley Brockington's motion to ask the province permission to install photo radar, which has been making headlines in recent weeks.

The cameras are not allowed on municipal streets without provincial permission, but other municipalities have been looking for ways to catch speeders without draining police resources. Toronto is a recent example.

Council's decision to refer the photo radar debate to committee means city staff will be able to make recommendations and residents will be allowed to weigh in. That level of debate does not happen at council meetings.

Brockington was initial-

ly planning on bringing his motion to the transportation committee in May or June. Given that photo radar has been in the news, he decided to fast-track the motion to council.

"I thought that for Ontario's second-largest city, the moment to step forward was now," he said.

Brockington acknowledged this technology is not the "silver bullet" to stop speeding on Ottawa streets.

"I just think photo radar needs to be one of those tools — of many — that can be considered in neighbourhoods where speed is an issue."

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO OTTAWA



Photo radar could soon be back in Ontario. DREAMTIME

LITTLE ITALY

Construction worker dies after being struck by ice

Paramedics say a 25-year-old construction worker has died after he was seriously injured from a large piece of ice that struck him in the head inside a 100-foot pit in Little Italy.

First responders received a 911 call from his coworkers at 7:23 a.m. Wednesday and responded to the intersection of Preston and Carling Streets, where a multi-level condo is being built.

Upon arrival, the male worker had vital signs but was unconscious. Paramed-

ics spokesman J.P. Trottier said the patient suffered serious head injuries.

Fire crews had to extricate the man using a crane and a basket. Trottier said as crews were loading him into the ambulance he lost vital signs. Shortly after arriving at hospital, he was pronounced dead. The man's colleagues were "extremely helpful" to firefighters in getting the man out of the pit, added Trottier. The Ministry of Labour is on site and is now investigating the incident.

JOE LOFARO/METRO OTTAWA



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67'S JUNIOR HOCKEY CARRYING THE BANNER Mayor Jim Watson was all too happy to throw his support behind Ottawa 67's captain Jake Middleton, left, and his OHL team as they start their playoff run in St. Catharines Thursday against the Niagara Ice Dogs. The 67's will be back in Ottawa for games 3 and 4 on March 28 and 30. The team's flag will fly outside city hall "until they win the Memorial Cup," Watson said Wednesday. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Hockey fans: Be a part of history

HERITAGE

Museum plans exhibit based on the sport

Attention all hockey fans: memorabilia and artifacts are wanted for 2017.

With the Canadian Museum of History opening a hockey exhibit in February 2017 for the 100th anniversary of the NHL, the Ottawa Senators' 25th anniversary, and Canada's 150th birthday, the city, museum and hockey club have put out a call for borrowed or donated items to put on display.

Hockey history is part of Canadian history, said Jean-Marc Blais, director general of the Canadian Museum of History at a press conference held by the Ottawa Senators on March 22 at the Canadian Tire Centre.

"It's hockey, but it's also part of Canadian history and how we define ourselves," he said.

The museum will highlight Canadian hockey history in

2017, and has already acquired the first known hockey stick.

A committee will determine what items go to whom: items of national significance would go to the museum, for example, and items of local or regional significance would be more likely to go to the city archives, said Paul Henry, a city archivist.

The city's archives don't have a budget to acquire items, but a tax receipt can be given to those who choose to donate their items, instead of loaning them out.

Some of the Senators' players, and former players, have already loaned personal items to the club, such as Laurie Boschman's jersey from the first-ever Senators season and Chris Phillips' rookie-season stick.

The organizations involved are still seeking items with historical significance, from amateur, professional, women's and international hockey.

Ideal items would be game-worn uniforms, letters, player contracts, programs and memorabilia. They would like items



We're really looking for unique items.

City archivist Paul Henry

with significant historical value over items with personal value, such as a signed piece of memorabilia.

"We're really looking for unique items," Henry said. "Every item should have a story."

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk said his personal hope is that the city can have a permanent display of local historical hockey items, perhaps in a new downtown rink.

The city archives currently has sports memorabilia on display at the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame at city hall.

The Senators have developed a website with information on lending or donating items. For more information, visit www.ottawasenators.com/sensartifacts.

BRIER DODGE/METROLAND MEDIA

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Brotherly love tested in culinary clash

TELEVISION

Ottawan chefs to duke it out on Chopped



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Sibling rivalry will boil over Saturday as two Ottawa brothers face off on Chopped Canada.

The “Bro-Down Showdown” will air this Saturday on the Food Network as Imrun and Bijou Texeira compete against a pair of Alberta brothers for \$10,000.

It’s technically every man for himself, but Kanata-born Imrun said he didn’t really care if he beat the Western team.

“As long as I beat my own brother, that’s all that matters,” he laughed.

While Imrun found his passion for cooking in their child-

hood kitchen, his older brother Bijou fell into the field when he landed his first job in a restaurant, Imrun said.

Naturally, the two brothers have harboured a brotherly competitiveness throughout their careers as they’ve worked their way into Michelin-star restaurants across the world.

“Growing up with him, we were always competing in everything we did,” said Imrun, 21. “Working in the same industry,

we knew it was going to be a competition.”

And compete they did as they filmed the Chopped Canada episode last year. While Imrun is sworn to secrecy about who ultimately took the prize, he promised a show of surprises.

“When you think one thing’s going one way, it goes the other,” he hinted. “Some things you’d think would have gone more easily.”

The show airs at 9 p.m.



Ottawa brothers Imrun, left, and Bijou Texeira, second left, will face off on Chopped Canada this Saturday. CONTRIBUTED

RECREATION

City council votes to extend beach season



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

A snowstorm is in the forecast for Ottawa this week, but city councillors are already planning a longer beach season.

On Wednesday, city council voted to extend the supervised beach days by an extra week this year.

Britannia, Mooney’s Bay, Petrie Island and Westboro beaches will all stay open for 72 days — up from 65 days — until the last Sunday in August before the Labour Day weekend.

It will cost the city an additional \$31,000 to supervise the four beaches an extra seven days. But the funds are coming from the temporary closure of an outdoor pool that is being replaced. As for future beach seasons, they will find the cash in the parks,

recreation and culture operating budget for 2017.

“It’s a good news story. It stays within budget. It gives residents what they were looking for last year,” said Knoxdale-Merivale Coun. Keith Egli, who moved the motion to fund the extended beach season.

Last year, the city closed its supervised beaches during a late August heat wave, which left people scratching their sweaty heads. At the time, staff said there was no room in the budget to keep lifeguards on the stands a little longer. Bathers were free to swim unsupervised, however.

Last month, city staff recommended staggering the opening and closing dates of the four beaches rather than spend money to tack on an extra week.

Egli said this would create a “level of unfairness” for those who lived close to a particular beach but might have to travel.



It will cost the City of Ottawa \$31,000 to keep four beaches open a week longer. METRO FILE

IN BRIEF

City ranks as fourth-most congested in Canada

Ottawa commuters spend an extra 31 minutes waiting in traffic on their way to work every day, according to the TomTom 2016 traffic index.

The GPS manufacturer releases profiles of traffic congestion worldwide each year. This year, Ottawa is 4th most congested city

in Canada and 86th in the world. We placed behind Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.

The most congested day in the city this year was Feb. 4. Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and evenings from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. are the worst times to be on the city’s roads, according to the index.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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Study aims to see if site contaminated

WATER TREATMENT

Malroz Engineering given contract for assessment

Smiths Falls town council has given a green light for an environmental assessment of the old water treatment plant to see if it is a "brownfield site."

Coun. Chris Cummings said that such testing was necessary since "there could be environmental issues at that site," he said during a recent council meeting. "We need to know if there is a liability that taxpayers are facing," he said.

The contract was awarded to Malroz Engineering for the price of \$39,084.

The town's director of community services, Art Manhire, told council that there were 13

submissions from the initial RFP (request for proposals) and that a panel then chiselled that number down to three.

In a "fairly rare" occurrence, it was discovered that Malroz's "submission scoring is the highest in terms of their technical component and their quote is the lowest," Manhire wrote in his submission to town council.

The facility, located at 25 Old Mill Rd., "is considered to

66

We can't bury our heads in the ground.

Coun. Chris Cummings

be a 'brownfield,' in terms of possible site contamination," he added in his report. "Having an environmental assessment 'is needed to facilitate the re-

development of the property," Manhire wrote.

"Clearly, we need to do that work," said Cummings.

"They are going to need to know that information. We can't bury our heads in the ground. We need to know what is going on at that location."

In the report, it was noted that the selection process was done under a so-called "two envelope system," whereby "the first envelope contained

the technical aspects of the proposal and the second envelope containing the estimated costs of the work.

The second envelope is not opened until the technical aspects of the proposals are scored to eliminate the scoring bias based on cost."

The process to get an environmental assessment process going will be about three months, Manhire told council.

DESMOND DEVOY/METROLAND MEDIA

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Display of birds collected in 2014 at the Canadian Museum of Nature. COURTESY SAFE WINGS OTTAWA

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Group plans 'hard to ignore' bird display

Ashley Moffatt
For Metro | Ottawa

Safe Wings Ottawa, a group dedicated to the reduction of bird deaths due to window collisions, plans to set up a display of dead birds at city hall on Tuesday.

It is the second year that the group will display the birds in city hall's main corridor.

"We thought it was a good idea to do it at city hall because councillors are walking by there, city staff, the public," said Anouk Hoedeman, the group's co-ordinator. "It's a busy place. So it's a good to get people's attention."

Hoedeman said the shock value of the dead birds is part of their strategy to get people to notice the issue.

"It's hard to ignore," said

Hoedeman. "It's a good way to get people's attention and in the process educate them about the problem."

Hoedeman said that they've documented 13,000 cases of bird collisions, but that number is probably on the lower end of the scale.

"It's hard to come up with really firm numbers because of scavengers and predators," Hoedeman said. "We estimate that we find maybe five to 10 per cent of the birds colliding at the buildings. We can only monitor so many buildings and we're only there so many times, we miss a lot of them. We estimate that the number of birds colliding here in Ottawa must be at least half a million."

The birds will be laid out at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

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Left: Officers with the Ottawa police tactical unit, the OPP's Tactics and Rescue Team, known as TRU, and Ottawa tactical paramedics gather near vacant Herongate rowhouses ahead of a training exercise on March 21. Right: Ottawa police Const. Cameron Downie, with the service's training unit, speaks with Ottawa tactical officers and tactical paramedics in Herongate on March 21. The tactical team has been using the vacant portion of the property, which is slated for demolition, for mock scenarios. ERIN MCCracken / METROLAND MEDIA

Police tactical unit sets up shop

DEVELOPMENT

Fire services also eyeing vacant block for training

A vacant section of rental rowhouses in Herongate is no longer as dormant as it was in the wake of the eviction of 54 families to make way for the future redevelopment of the property.

The Ottawa police tactical unit has kept up an on-and-off presence there, using the empty homes for on-the-job training since February.

Their presence is a win-win for police, the Timbercreek

property owner and tenants living near the area, said Alta Vista Coun. Jean Cloutier.

"One of the issues that we have been looking at is the safety and security of those units, given that they are vacant," he said.

Metroland Media learned that before moving out, residents in those units, which are earmarked for eventual demolition, complained of increased vandalism and gang activity and several fires breaking out.

Timbercreek Communities reached out to Ottawa police to gauge potential interest in using the space, said Cloutier, and the tactical unit was given the keys to several vacant units for training.

"That police presence gives a layer of security to the area because they are present and they are patrolling and they are using it to train," he said. "It's a pretty interesting and innovative way to enhance the security of the area and to provide a service to the Ottawa police. It's a win-win for both."

Ottawa's fire department is currently eyeing the property for training purposes, confirmed Capt. Danielle Cardinal, department spokeswoman.

Vacant properties where the specialized policing units can hone their skills don't come up all that often, said Staff Sgt. Paul Burnett, who has led the Ottawa police tactical, bomb-disposal and canine units for

just over a year.

The Herongate property is ideal since the team doesn't have to worry about preserving the structure, since it will eventually be torn down, he said.

Tactical officers can break down doors and use munitions rounds, similar to paint balls, Burnett said, but added officers patch up the place, making sure doorways and windows are secured with plywood before they leave for the day.

"We can do all those things that we would do in a real-life situation, and most of the time that is going to incur some damage," said Burnett, who served in the unit as a tactical officer for eight years.

The 28-member tactical unit

+ ZONING

Demolition of that vacant section, which is home to the oldest rental rowhomes in the area, is slated to begin in April. Those units date back to 1969. Back in October, Jacobs said Timbercreek's plan was to

replace the three- and four-bedroom units, located at 2816 to 2838 Sandalwood Dr., with 300 or more one- and two-bedroom rental units. Current zoning allows for building heights of five or six storeys.

responds to more than 100 high-risk incidents in Ottawa each year. It responded to the shootings at the National War Memorial and Parliament Hill in October 2014.

The unit's officers have expertise in explosives, hostage

takings, negotiations, executing warrants, barricaded individuals, high-risk take downs, surveillance, sniper tactics, as well as rappelling — all skills that need to be honed on a regular basis.

ERIN MCCracken/METROLAND MEDIA

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Groups craft gang exit plan

TIME FOR CHANGE

Community project targets crime-related lifestyles

Coun. Jan Harder says that Time for Change, a gang exit strategy developed by police, Crime Prevention Ottawa and the John Howard Society, would be a perfect fit for the city's Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods program.

Nancy Worsfold, head of Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO), said the organization has been working with the society on the plan for six months.

With a budget of \$300,000 annually, caseworkers can take on 30 clients per year, through a variety of referral services, including the police and John Howard Society.

Since the funding was announced six months ago, Time

for Change has started working with 25 people.

While seven were either deemed not eligible or refused the program, things have been working smoothly with the remaining 18, organizers say.

Christine MacIntosh, with the John Howard Society, said workers visit clients in the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, or the society's halfway houses to help offer a way out of a life in gangs and the drug trade.

CPO chair Shad Qadri said on top of the money added to the organization's base budget, there's an additional \$100,000 for employment services.

The Time for Change program is working on a memorandum

of understanding with Ottawa Police that would see officers in the guns and gangs unit able to recommend candidates for the service.

Coun. Tim Tierney offered his support in getting everyone in the same room, to get a deal ironed out.

"This is exactly the kind of thing we have been looking for with respect to Jasmine Crescent," Tierney said.

Police chief Charles Bordelieu said that there are privacy issues involved, and getting the terms of the MOU sorted out is a priority.

Harder asked about the funds left over for this year, if there was enough to handle the project's caseload and possibly some left over.

She said pilot projects in Heatherington, Carlington and Vanier South under the Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods program are good candidates for that kind of work.

JENNIFER MCINTOSH / METROLAND MEDIA



Exactly the kind of thing we have been looking for.

Coun. Tim Tierney



Forensic officers investigate a gang-related shooting that occurred on Hemlock Road on Jan. 10, 2016 that claimed the life of a 28-year-old man. JOE LOFARO/METRO

ROBBERY

Suspect sought by police

Ottawa police are on the look-out for a man who robbed a Carling Avenue convenience store at knife-point.

Police say a man entered a convenience store along the 2900 block of Carling Avenue at about 6:50 p.m. on Feb. 28.

They say the man was armed with a kitchen-style knife.

Police say the man demanded money, which the clerk handed over, along with cigarettes.

No one was injured in the robbery. METRO

+ DESCRIPTION

Police describe the suspect as a white man between the ages of 20 and 25, with a medium build. He wore a black hooded sweatshirt, black jogging pants, a white or grey T-shirt and red running shoes.

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High-school teachers and supporters hold rally outside Queens Park last May amid negotiations with the school boards and provincial government. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sandals says \$300M for trusts 'net zero'

TEACHERS

Money to set up benefits to come back via 'efficiencies'

Education Minister Liz Sandals says despite a \$300-million price tag to set up new benefit trusts for teachers, the deals are still "net zero."

She says the government has always said that "net zero" would be achieved by offsetting any wage increases with savings elsewhere, and the \$300-million cost is not compensation.

The money will be used to set up five health, life and dental trusts that will consolidate more than 1,000 current benefit plans.

The government believes it will eventually recover the set-up costs — \$175 million to establish the trusts and \$125

million to consolidate the plans — due to "long-term efficiencies" and "improved purchasing power."

The nine central teachers' and education workers' contracts include a total of \$402 million in salary increases, which is approximately the amount of savings the government says it is getting through changes to previously banked sick-day payouts, cancelling some deferred spending, delaying salary grid bumps and other measures.

The central deals were made public Wednesday, months after revelations that the government promised \$2.5 million to some unions to cover their bargaining costs, which prompted calls for the entire agreements to be released.

The savings detailed in the contracts estimate \$150 million will be saved by cancelling spending on the final year of a deferred program to help

+ TIMELINE

Minister Liz Sandals says it will be several years before savings will start to be realized.

struggling students graduate. It estimates savings of \$86 million to \$171 million by offering teachers who had banked sick days under previous collective agreements smaller payouts next year instead of receiving more upon retirement.

Delaying teachers and education workers' salary grid bumps will save an estimated \$95 million. Allowing education workers to take up to two unpaid days off on PA days could save up to \$14 million, the government estimates, as well as savings of between \$7 million and \$14 million with changes to sick leave provisions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Securities director leaves for similar job in Hong Kong

The Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) says its director of enforcement is leaving to take a similar role in Hong Kong.

Prior to his role at OSC, Tom Atkinson was founding president and CEO of Market Regulation Services Inc., held positions at the Toronto Stock Exchange and was an assistant Crown attorney from 1993 to 1996 for the Ontario Court of Justice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH

Greedy doctors tax system: Minister

Health Minister Eric Hoskins says "out of control billing" by some Ontario doctors is leaving less money for home care and other vital services.

Hoskins says there are no caps on billings by Ontario doctors, so they essentially set their own salaries, and at an average of \$360,000 a year are the highest paid in Canada. But he says unpredictable billing allows some specialists to earn several times the average and forces the government to find hundreds of

millions of dollars on top of the \$11 billion set aside annually for physician compensation.

Hoskins says it's not right that high-billing specialists pull funds away from family doctors and other health-care priorities.

Ontario Medical Association president Dr. Mike Toth says he's surprised and disappointed by Hoskins' comments and insists the best way to get a new deal with doctors is for the government to agree to binding arbitration. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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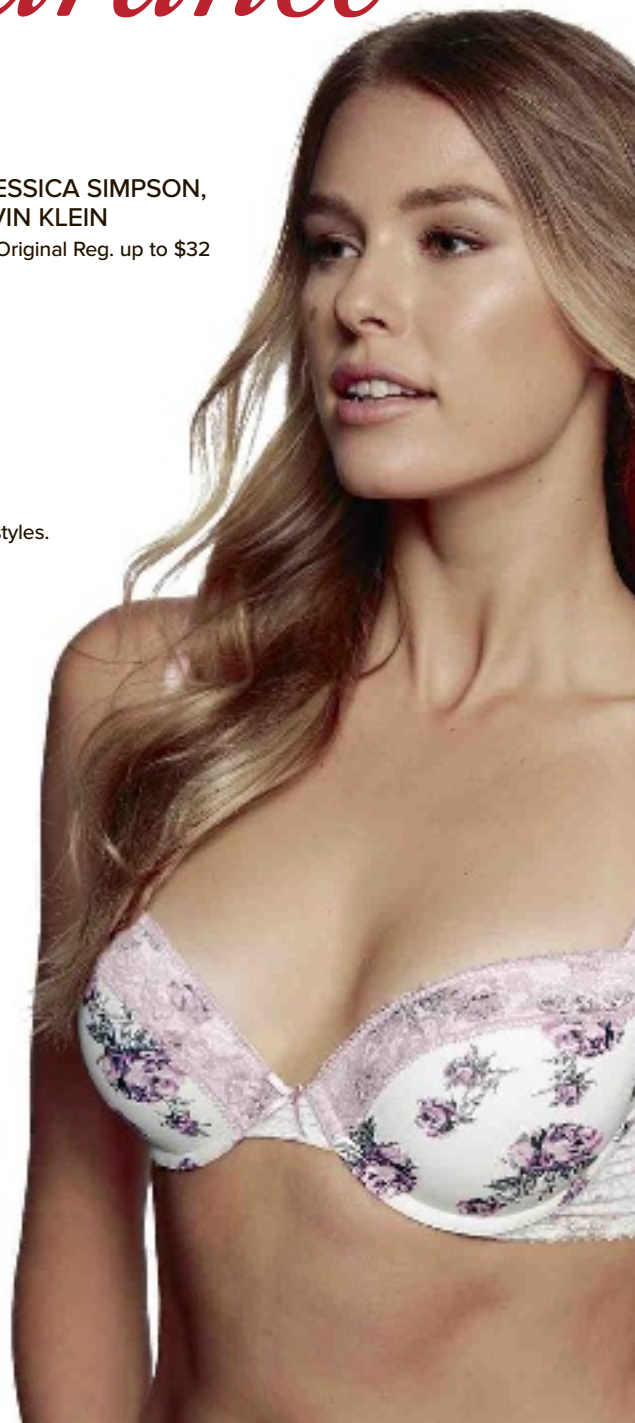
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GETTING READY TO RIDE Laura Miller, coordinator at the SFUO Bike Coop, rinses down her bike on Wednesday. The university co-op hosted a Spring Prep Day and barbecue to get bikes ready for the summer season. The co-op is located at 200 Lees Avenue and is open Monday to Thursday for DIY bike repairs. **HALEY RITCHIE/METRO**

Black Lives Matter interrupts council

POLICE BRUTALITY

March on City Hall in solidarity with Toronto BLM



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The loud chants of “black lives matter” interrupted a city council meeting Wednesday morning, as about two-dozen protesters marched into Ottawa City Hall.

Security stalled the megaphone- and placard-wielding group, who were yelling, “No justice, no peace, no racist-ass police.”

The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa organized the march. The group was collecting donations for Black Lives Matter Toronto and making noise around the deaths of two Canadian black men shot by police — Andrew Loku in

Toronto and Jermaine Carby in Brampton, Ont.

“This is a national issue. Black Lives Matter Toronto is not just talking about things happening in Toronto. They’re talking about things happening all over this country,” said Vanessa Dorimain, vice president of university affairs at the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa. She said city politicians have remained “silent” on the issue.

Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney addressed the crowd and said she agrees that all black lives matter.

“Safety is an issue for everyone, but not everyone is treated equally,” she told the crowd through the megaphone. “We’re thinking about what’s happening in Toronto. I am as a councillor.”

Last year, a Sandra Bland mural in her ward was defaced. Someone scrawled “All Lives Matter” over the portrait of the U.S. black woman who died in police custody.

This week, Black Lives Matter protesters in Toronto have been demonstrating outside city hall



Vanessa Dorimain leads a Black Lives Matter protest at City Hall on Wednesday.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

and police headquarters, after Ontario’s Special Investigations Unit announced that the unnamed officer who shot Loku last July had used justifiable force against him.

In Peel, police are not releasing the name of the officers involved in the Brampton shooting death of Carby. There will be a coroner’s inquest into the shooting this May. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Author helps youth connect to homeless

FICTION

Writer's latest shines a light on street life

Her name is Sally. She lives on the streets, struggling every day just to survive.

A teen named Tom refuses to simply pass her by, and instead stops and befriends her.

"It's the unexpected friendship between a teenage boy and a homeless woman named Sally," said Findlay Creek author Chris Nihmey. "I wanted to write a story about the connection between mental illness and homelessness."

"I wanted to show why there's a million reasons why someone would go onto the streets and not by choice."

Nihmey said in telling Sally's story on the pages of his newest published book, Sally, he wanted to give his readers a chance to connect with those living that

life, to better understand them as people behind the "homeless" and "mentally ill" labels.

"They were children at one time, they were kindergarten students, they have parents, they have families," he said. "They feel caught in a whirlwind of negativity."

In Sally, Nihmey introduces his main character to children and teens through the eyes of Tom, a teenager himself.

Though it is a fictional work, the story is based on Nihmey's experiences volunteering in downtown Ottawa at the Ottawa Mission and Shepherds of Good Hope, where he helped serve food and played piano between 2000 and 2005.

It was in 2005, when Nihmey was in the depths of his own mental health struggles, that he began writing Sally to open the eyes of young people to the importance of reaching out to others who are isolated, vulnerable and struggling on the streets.

ERIN MCCracken/METROLAND MEDIA



Chris Nihmey at a book signing event at KS on the Keys restaurant in South Keys on March 12. COURTESY MICHELLE NASH

TECH

eCab app provides Uber alternative



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

A new, global taxi app is heading to the city just as drivers brace for new regulations to deal with Uber.

The eCab mobile app, created in Paris in 2014 and already used in 36 cities, will launch in Ottawa Thursday.

Like Uber's ride-share app, the system will hail the closest taxi and bring a ride to your doorstep in three to six minutes, allow direct payment via the app as well as the option to rate the driver.

But unlike Uber, eCab only calls cabs vetted through the city's strict regulatory process.

It's for customers who "don't want to use an app that's illegal in the city or has insurance that is dubious," said Hanif Patni, president of Ottawa dispatcher Coventry Connections, which runs the majority of taxi fleets in the capital.

Patni said eCab wasn't developed in response to the illegal ride-share companies that have been eating into traditional taxi profits — and customers will never deal with surge pricing, Uber's system of spiking rates when demand for cabs is high.

The practice isn't allowed in the traditional taxi industry and has been roundly criticized by cab drivers being undercut by illegal Uber cabs.



POLICE SEEK MURDER SUSPECTS

Police are looking for two men involved in the murder of Taylor Morrow-Flint.

The victim was shot dead in the 80 block of Ritchie Street on Feb. 24. Suspects

were captured on video walking south on Ritchie Street. Police say they think the men fled to Carling Avenue, toward a possible getaway vehicle. METRO

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SEXUAL EDUCATION

New health centre in the works

Kind and Planned Parenthood Ottawa (PPO) are set to open a new downtown community centre dedicated to gender, sexual orientation, sexuality, and reproductive health.

The two groups plan to share a space at 222 Somerset West, suite 404, near Elgin

Street.

The groups say the centre will bring together Kind's and PPO's respective counselling, education and volunteer programs into a single site to "offer Ottawa a more inclusive and comprehensive range of sexual health and gender sup-

port services."

Previously, the two groups had been run out of separate offices.

Kind, formerly known as Pink Triangle Services, has been operating for 32 years, while PPO has been around for more than 50 years. METRO

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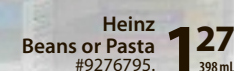
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Montreal-born A-Trak will bump at Babylon Nightclub on Tuesday, March 29. METRO/CONTRIBUTED

Vegas-based DJ comes to Babylon

BACKSTAGE PASS

Few get to see A-Trak in such an intimate venue



Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

There are hundreds of thousands of music fans who can say they have seen A-Trak spin live at major events across the globe, but not too many can say they saw him in an intimate setting, with just a few hundred people bobbing to his beats.

There'll be a few hundred more who will be able to make that claim after the Montreal-born turntablist destroys Babylon Nightclub on Tuesday night.

Those of you who have seen what A-Trak can do with his hands know that he will indeed tear the place apart.

"The thing that we are most stoked about is putting him in a venue like this," says BYDEK promotions owner Amar Makim, explaining how tough it is to book the elusive A-Trak, as

he is usually bumping massive crowds at major fests or holding down his Vegas residency with supreme style.

"To have a DJ with a Las Vegas residency who is one of the biggest pacemakers in all of music, not just electronic, but to have him at Babylon for \$25 a ticket is pretty special."

A-Trak isn't a DJ. He isn't a modern controller DJ dropping cheesy sound loops and effects into a predictable, standard dance set. Rather, he's a turntablist who uses Technics as if they were an extension of his own hands; a guy who can seamlessly mix the Beatles with Daft Punk without anyone even noticing; a dude who has found a way to turn a record player into an instrument. And it's damn fine work.

"He is absolutely unreal," adds the 29-year-old concert promoter.

"He is one of those DJs who actually grew up with an actual DJing pedigree and he will read the crowd and see what they react to most. Maybe he will drop some future or whether he goes into a trap set, it's hard to say."

Those who have been paying attention to the city's music scene must know by

now that BYDEK is a real player, a heavyweight that has really helped put Ottawa on the sonic map.

They recently partnered up with DNA Presents and it's clear they know how to throw a rager. Their first ever event was Steve Aoki back in 2010. Way to start small, boys. Next it was Skrillex, then Afrojack, Porter Robinson and Zedd and, of course, Bonobo with a full band at Barrymore's in 2013.

Through its diverse line-up of genre-spanning shows, BYDEK has been able to reach more audiences than just the college 20-somethings crowd. Their diverse hip hop and electronic shows have brought the heads out, the old-schoolers looking to bottle up a little taste of nostalgia. But their bigger EDM shows have wowed that college crowd and both demographics are thirsty for more.

"Our reach is definitely diverse, but the one thing our crowd knows is that they don't really know what kind of show to expect from us next," adds Makim.

"It might be a hip hop show one day. It might be DJ Craze another day. It might be A-Trak.

"We have really covered all the bases."

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Pussy to get prosthetics

VANCOUVER

Rescued kitten to be fitted out with blades as back limbs

When a deformed feral kitten was discovered on a rural property in Langley, B.C., Cassidy the cat's rescuer says he was scooting around on his front legs with his bum in the air like a "reverse velociraptor."

The nine-week-old tabby, missing both hind legs, will soon be fitted with artificial leg implants in a groundbreaking procedure.

"Definitely this is cutting-edge technology," said Dr. Mike Higgins, a neurologist with Canada West Veterinary Specialists.

"We're learning a lot from human medicine that is translating into animals."

The black-and-white kitten received Botox injections at the Vancouver animal hospital on Wednesday as preparation for attaching prosthetic blades to his back limbs. The procedure will be the first of its kind in



Veterinarian Dr. Mike Higgins examines Cassidy, an eight-month-old rescue cat with no rear legs. She will soon be fitted with artificial leg implants. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the world on a cat, Higgins said.

Cassidy was rescued by Shelly Roche, who believes the kitten may have lost its legs as a result of its mother chewing to free its body from a knotted umbilical cord at birth.

The cost of his rehabilitation has been \$10,000, she said, though the Vancouver vets offered their services pro bono.

Another specialist is already working with the animal to make a 3D-printed model for



Shelly Roche with her rescue cat, Cassidy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

the prostheses. The surgery will take place at North Carolina State University in Raleigh in two to four months, when Cassidy is close to being fully grown.

The American surgeon has unique experience in remedying cats and dogs with con-

genital malformations, Higgins said.

The blade device is advanced because its design conforms more naturally to the limbs, allowing more normal movement, he said. Similar models are already in use by people, he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Tantrum has big impact

A Toronto woman who pitched two cups of coffee at a man who confronted her for parking in a handicapped parking spot outside a Tim Hortons has received a police warning after a video of the incident garnered international attention.

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said Wednesday the videographer, Ryan Favro, had declined to press a criminal complaint but officers still paid a visit to the woman.

Favro, in the interim, removed his YouTube video — shot Monday — which has been viewed more than a million times and shared by tens of thousands.

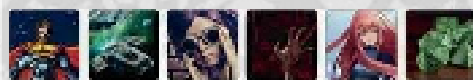
"I don't want to grind this woman into the ground," Favro says. "There has to be a way for her to recover."

The video, still widely available, sparked howls of social media outrage. Favro, however, said some of the comments directed at the woman, who appears to be in her 20s, went too far.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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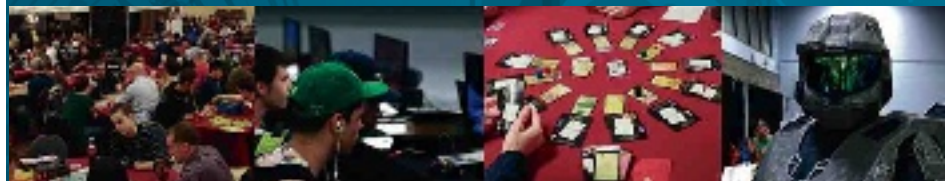
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A ‘gaping hole’ in Liberal fiscal plan

THE 2016
FEDERAL BUDGET

Grits forced to defend lack of schedule for nixing deficit

One day after the Liberals tabled an inaugural budget packed with new spending, the government found itself on the defensive over the lack of a firm plan to eventually eliminate billions in looming deficits.

The Liberal budget projected \$113.2 billion in red ink over the next five years, due in large part to increased funding in numerous areas. On the other side of the balance sheet, however, there was no indication of when, how or if the budget might eventually be balanced.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau

began the process of selling their fiscal plan — and found themselves defending the lack of solid fiscal targets.

Pressed on the issue during a Radio-Canada interview, Trudeau maintained that the objective of the budget was not “to reach some mathematical balance” but to provide “optimism and trust” to Canadians.

Morneau later said the government’s goal “is to get to a balanced budget over approximately” five years — depending on how much economic growth the Liberal blueprint generates.

Both men argued that some of the budget’s biggest spending, such as on infrastructure and the revamped multibillion-dollar Canada child benefit, would generate much-needed growth and eventually balance the books.

“Our priority right now is to make those investments that can make a difference,” said Morneau, who was also asked if the government would stop

spending at some point if the growth fails to kick in.

“Our goal is to focus on where we’re at each year as we put forth the budget.... We’ll worry about budget 2017 in 2017.”

The Liberal numbers also include a \$6-billion adjustment for risk, which could ultimately help the government beat low fiscal expectations and balance the books even earlier than forecast.

Experts like former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page called the budget’s lack of formal targets “a major, strategic failure” for the government.

“It was just a gaping hole.... You can’t have a budget without a fiscal plan,” said Page.

The government doesn’t necessarily have to set a timetable to rebalance the budget, Page said, but big-ticket spending carries with it a responsibility to explain where the money is going to come from.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shakes hands with Minister Bill Morneau after his budget speech.

29.4B Spend neglects First Nations kids: Critics

projected federal budget deficit in 2016-17

8.4B spending on Indigenous Affairs, including education and water quality

1.15B increase to Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors

11.9B new infrastructure spending over five years

3.74B new, tweaked tax measures aimed at the middle class and families with children

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

The federal government is determined to overhaul the First Nations child-welfare system, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says — even as critics focused on the issue say the budget fell well short of what’s needed.

It’s also necessary to increase capacity so child-welfare services can be properly delivered and controlled by First Nations themselves, Bennett said.

“We are very interested in working together to have less children in foster care, get children back to their communities,” Advocate Cindy Blackstock has a different assessment of the government’s level of funding,

which includes an initial outlay of \$71 million in 2016-17.

As president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Blackstock spent nearly a decade fighting the federal government over what has long been characterized as the perpetual underfunding of reserve care.

On Tuesday, despite a multibillion-dollar federal budget windfall for indigenous people, including First Nations education, infrastructure and social housing, Blackstock assailed the government for failing to spend the needed \$200 million on indigenous child welfare services this year.

Assembly of First Nations Na-



Cindy Blackstock, president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society
THE CANADIAN PRESS

“We’ve got to take what is there now and get it out as soon as possible,” Bellegarde said.

The system itself needs to be redesigned, he acknowledged.

“It is not just about the resources,” Bellegarde said. “That’s one piece, a very key piece. First Nations controlled jurisdiction over child and family services, we say — not only on-reserve but as well as off-reserve.”

Funding for First Nations issues was a central theme of the Liberal government’s first budget, featuring \$8.4 billion in spending commitments over multiple years for education, water, housing and other services.

MILITARY

No perfect victory for veterans

The new federal budget showers the country’s veterans with cash, but questions lingered Wednesday about the details and just how far the money will go toward improving the lives of former soldiers.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau’s fiscal plan delivers \$5.6 billion — \$3.7 billion booked in the current fiscal year — for better programs and services for

the most critically injured former military members. The money will be spread out over decades.

One of the Liberal promises to veterans in the last election was to return to a pension-for-life system — or provide soldiers a choice between that and a lump-sum option. There was no sign of such a change in Tuesday’s budget, but Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr says the govern-

IN BRIEF

Aid money could help win security council seat

Canada needs to show that it is a generous aid donor if it wants to win a seat on the UN Security Council, says the international development minister.

Yet Marie-Claude Bibeau says that doesn’t mean committing Canada to the UN’s development spending goal.



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ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

29.4B

projected federal budget deficit in 2016-17

8.4B

spending on Indigenous Affairs, including education and water quality

1.15B

increase to Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors

11.9B

new infrastructure spending over five years

3.74B

new, tweaked tax measures aimed at the middle class and families with children

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Spend neglects First Nations kids: Critics

The federal government is determined to overhaul the First Nations child-welfare system, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says — even as critics focused on the issue say the budget fell well short of what's needed.

It's also necessary to increase capacity so child-welfare services can be properly delivered and controlled by First Nations themselves, Bennett said.

"We are very interested in working together to have less children in foster care, get children back to their communities."

Advocate Cindy Blackstock has a different assessment of the government's level of funding,

which includes an initial outlay of \$71 million in 2016-17.

As president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Blackstock spent nearly a decade fighting the federal government over what has long been characterized as the perpetual underfunding of reserve care.

On Tuesday, despite a multibillion-dollar federal budget windfall for indigenous people, including First Nations education, infrastructure and social housing, Blackstock assailed the government for failing to spend the needed \$200 million on indigenous child welfare services this year.

Assembly of First Nations Na-



Cindy Blackstock, president of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society

THE CANADIAN PRESS

tional Chief Perry Bellegarde also urged the government to ensure the money flows for child welfare.

"We've got to take what is there now and get it out as soon as possible," Bellegarde said.

The system itself needs to be redesigned, he acknowledged.

"It is not just about the resources," Bellegarde said. "That's one piece, a very key piece. First Nations controlled jurisdiction over child and family services, we say — not only on-reserve but as well as off-reserve."

Funding for First Nations issues was a central theme of the Liberal government's first budget, featuring \$8.4 billion in spending commitments over multiple years for education, water, housing and other services. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MILITARY

No perfect victory for veterans

The new federal budget showers the country's veterans with cash, but questions lingered Wednesday about the details and just how far the money will go toward improving the lives of former soldiers.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau's fiscal plan delivers \$5.6 billion — \$3.7 billion booked in the current fiscal year — for better programs and services for

the most critically injured former military members. The money will be spread out over decades.

One of the Liberal promises to veterans in the last election was to return to a pension-for-life system — or provide soldiers a choice between that and a lump-sum option. There was no sign of such a change in Tuesday's budget, but Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr says the govern-

ment still backs the promise.

Advocates were left wondering about the pledge, in part because the budget raised the lump-sum disability award for wounds suffered in the line of duty to a maximum of \$360,000 next year from the current \$310,000. That's far below other countries such as Britain, where the payout is closer to \$1 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Aid money could help win security council seat

Canada needs to show that it is a generous aid donor if it wants to win a seat on the UN Security Council, says the international development minister. Yet Marie-Claude Bibeau says that doesn't mean committing Canada to the UN's development spending goal. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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IN BRIEF**Two attackers identified**

Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui have been identified by a Belgian prosecutor as two of the bombers who killed more than 30 people in Brussels on Tuesday. Elder brother Ibrahim, 29, blew himself up at the airport. Khalid, 27, detonated his bomb at the Maelbeek subway station.



Khalid El Bakraoui, left, and Ibrahim El Bakraoui

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Brussels linked to Paris attacks in November

The suspected bombmaker in the Paris attacks in November was one of two suicide bombers who targeted the Brussels airport, officials said Wednesday, in a new sign that both attacks are linked to the same cell of Daesh.

Woman in attacks photo is Indian flight attendant

A woman sitting bloodied and dazed just moments after the Brussels airport bombings was one of the most haunting images from the attacks. The woman has been identified as Nidhi Chaphekar, a Jet Airways flight attendant from Mumbai. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nidhi Chaphekar

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Soldiers control passers by in Brussels on Wednesday, one day after attacks on the Brussels airport and at a metro station. More than 30 people were killed in Tuesday's attack. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bombers may have rushed terror attack

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

On day of mourning, details emerge on attackers

As police hunted for the surviving Brussels bomber, evidence mounted Wednesday that the same Daesh (ISIL) cell carried out the attacks in both Paris and Brussels, and that the militants may have launched this week's slaughter in haste because they feared authorities were closing in on them.

On a day of mourning across Belgium following Tuesday's bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded more than 270, new information emerged about the four attackers.

European security officials said one of the suicide bombers was Najim Laachraoui, a Moroccan-born Belgian whom police have hunted as the suspected bombmaker in the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris that killed 130.

The other two suicide bombers were Belgian-born brothers, Ibrahim El Bakraoui, and younger brother Khalid, both known to the police as common criminals, not anti-Western radicals.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ibrahim El Bakraoui was caught in June 2015 near Turkey's border with Syria and deported, at his own request, to the Netherlands, with Ankara warning Dutch and Belgian officials that he was a "foreign terrorist fighter." But other Turkish officials said he was released from Dutch custody due to lack of evidence of involvement in extremism.

Details of the investigation from chief prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw pointed to a rising sense of panic among the three bombers. An unidentified fourth man who was shown in airport video surveillance footage re-

mains at large after Van Leeuw said his suitcase bomb failed to detonate properly. Authorities say he was the man in a light jacket and hat on the far right of the video footage. Van Leeuw said the bomb did partially explode after police had already evacuated the terminal. It injured no one.

The prosecutor said a laptop seized from a garbage can on a street outside the brothers' last known address contained a message purportedly from Ibrahim El Bakraoui that indicated he was expecting to be arrested following Friday's capture in Brussels of the suspected ringleader of the Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAESH

400 trained to fight

Daesh has trained at least 400 fighters to target Europe in deadly waves of attacks, deploying interlocking terror cells like the ones that struck Brussels and Paris with orders to choose the time, place and method for maximum carnage, officials have told The Associated Press.

The network of agile and semi-autonomous cells shows the reach of the extremist group in Europe even as it loses ground in Syria and Iraq.

The officials, including European and Iraqi intelligence officials and a French lawmaker who follows the jihadi networks, described camps in Syria, Iraq and possibly the former Soviet bloc where attackers are trained to attack the West.

Before being killed in a police raid, the ringleader of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks claimed he had entered Europe in a multinational group of 90 fighters, who scattered "more or less everywhere."

But the biggest break yet in the Paris attacks investigation — Friday's arrest of fugitive Salah Abdeslam — did not thwart the multi-pronged attack just four days later on the Belgian capital's airport and subway that left 31 people dead and an estimated 270 wounded. Three suicide bombers also died.

Just as in Paris, Belgian authorities were searching for at least one fugitive in Tuesday's attacks — this time for a man wearing a white jacket who was seen on airport security footage with the two suicide attackers. The fear is that the man, whose identity Belgian officials say is not known, will find Abdeslam's path instructive.

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Candidate angers Muslims

TERRORIST ATTACK ON BRUSSELS

Daesh doesn't represent Islam, advocates say

A few miles from Disneyland is a place most California tourists never see. The signs along the thoroughfare suddenly switch to Arabic script advertising hookah shops, Middle Eastern sweets, halal meat and travel services.

In Little Arabia, flags from a half-dozen Muslim countries flap in a stiff breeze. Flying above them all is a giant American flag.

After Sen. Ted Cruz called for increased surveillance of Muslims in the U.S., this Muslim community and others like it defied the Republican presidential candidate and defended their commitment to the United States. The editor of an Arabic-language newspaper said Muslims are "already part of the country, whether he likes it or not."

Inside a Lebanese eatery called Forn Al Hara, immi-

66



I was born and raised here. I see myself as an American ... There's nothing really different about us.
Omar Ghanim

grants from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq debated the latest political rhetoric from the GOP candidates.

"I was born and raised here. I see myself as an American," said Omar Ghanim, 23, who grew up in Southern California with parents of Palestinian heritage. "Everything's the same between me and the rest of the Americans out there. There's nothing really different about us."

Cruz's comments on Tuesday came hours after the deadly attacks at the Brussels airport and a subway station that killed dozens of people and wounded many more. Daesh claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Ghanim said the extremist group Daesh doesn't represent his faith. "We're a peaceful

people. We're not violent."

Cruz said Tuesday that law enforcement should be empowered to "patrol and secure Muslim neighbourhoods before they become radicalized." Echoing earlier statements from rival Donald Trump, Cruz also said the U.S. should stop the flow of refugees from countries where Daesh has a significant presence.

Muslims across the country and groups including the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Anti-Defamation League condemned Cruz's statements. Many complained that the Islamic extremist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, and the intensifying rhetoric of the presidential campaign, have steadily ratcheted up animosity against



Ahmad Tarek Rashid Alam, publisher of the Arabic-language community newspaper The Arab World, comments on remarks made by Sen. Ted Cruz about Muslim Americans in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Belgium. GILLIAN FLACCUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

American Muslims.

Ahmad Tarek Rashid Alam, publisher of the weekly Arab World newspaper and one of the immigrants who helped build Little Arabia, said anti-Muslim statements are "nothing new."

"This has been going on in

every Islamic neighbourhood for years," he said. "But now our kids are in the police, in the Army. Are they going to watch us?"

He said Cruz's remarks seemed aimed at exploiting prejudice to get votes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Jeb Bush endorses Ted Cruz

Republican Ted Cruz picked up a key endorsement Wednesday from Jeb Bush, who said their party must beat back "the divisiveness and vulgarity" of front-running New York billionaire Donald Trump.

Bush's endorsement came after Trump won the Republican primary in Arizona on Tuesday but lost the Utah caucus to Cruz, the first-term Texas senator and ultra-conservative beacon in a race for the party's presidential nomination that has caused a near civil war among Republicans.

Bush, once seen as the likely nominee but whose candidacy never gained momentum, tweeted Wednesday that Cruz is a "consistent, principled conservative who has shown he can unite the party." Bush added on Facebook that Republicans "must overcome the divisiveness and vulgarity Donald Trump has brought into the political arena" or risk losing to Hillary Clinton, the increasingly likely Democratic nominee.

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Canada

GMO foods could be at stores soon

PRODUCE

Retail council says there is no requirement for labelling

The organization that represents Canada's major grocery chains says it has full confidence in selling genetically engineered foods that have been approved by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The Canadian Press asked large retail chains such as Loblaw Cos., Metro Inc., and Sobeys Inc., whether they plan to sell genetically modified produce like the Innate potato and Arctic apple and, if so, how they would be labelled. The companies referred questions to the Retail Council of Canada.

"We have confidence in the regulatory process and CFIA to ensure that (genetically engineered foods) are safe for consumption and only products that are safe for consumption are approved," said David Wilkes, senior vice-president of government relations and grocery division for the council.

"There is no requirement for labelling at this point in time, so the government does not indicate that (genetically engineered foods) would be labelled."

The U.S.-based J.R. Simplot Company said Monday that it was notified by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that it could sell its Innate potatoes — which purportedly are less likely to bruise or turn brown when cut.

About a year ago, Health Canada approved a similar non-browning Arctic apple

developed by Summerland, B.C.-based Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc. The fruit is not available yet because of the time it takes to grow apple trees.

Innate potatoes, meanwhile, could potentially be planted in Canada and sold as early as later this year. They have been sold in the U.S. since last May under the White Russet brand.

Lucy Sharratt, spokeswoman for the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN), said it rankles some Canadians that special labelling isn't required.

"We're not necessarily speaking of safety issues when we're speaking of labelling. Consumers want labelling for all kinds of different reasons and in a democracy if people want information about what's in the food system, I think it's incumbent on the government to respond," said Sharratt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Many retailers give shoppers a choice to avoid genetically engineered fruits or vegetables by purchasing organic offerings, says David Wilkes at the Retail Council of Canada. ISTOCK

AMAYA

Gaming firm's CEO among three charged

The CEO of Amaya has been charged following an investigation by Quebec's stock market watchdog into insider trading related to a 2014 blockbuster acquisition that transformed the Montreal firm into the world's largest online poker company.

David Baazov faces five charges, including influencing or attempting to influence the market price of the securities of Amaya and communicating privileged information.

"These allegations are false and I intend to vigorously contest these accusations," Baazov said in a statement Wednesday.

He was charged as part of an investigation by the Autorite des marches financiers that resulted in 23 charges against three people — Baazov, Yoel Altman and Benjamin Ahdoot — and three companies: Diocles Capital Inc., Sababa Consulting Inc. and 2374879 Ontario Inc.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Feds considering cash handout for Bombardier

Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains says the federal government is taking into account the possibility Bombardier may outsource jobs when determining whether to give it \$1 billion US for its CSeries planes. The Globe and Mail reported that Bombardier plans to move about 200 Toronto jobs that help assemble the company's Q400 planes to Mexico and China.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Starbucks said Wednesday it has more than 12 million active members for its loyalty program in the U.S. ISTOCK

REWARDS

Starbucks to offer a prepaid Visa card

Starbucks says it will introduce a prepaid card by the end of the year that lets people earn points for its rewards program.

The Seattle-based company plans to offer the card through Chase and says people would be able to use it wherever Visa is accepted.

It's the latest move by Starbucks Corp. to convince people to sign up for its loyalty program by giving them more ways to earn rewards "stars" outside of its cafes. The company also previously announced deals that entail selling its stars to The New York Times, Spotify and Lyft. Those companies would then distribute the stars as incentives to their own customers, Starbucks has said.

Starbucks said Wednesday it already has more than 12

million active members for its loyalty program in the U.S., and that people who sign up tend to spend more.

Last month, Starbucks announced an overhaul of its rewards program that hinted at plans to further expand the universe for its stars. Previously, people earned a star for each visit, and got a free drink or food item after 12 visits. Starting April 12, people will earn two stars for every dollar they spend, and get a free drink or food item after earning 125 stars.

By diminishing the unit value of a star, Starbucks Chief Strategy Officer Matthew Ryan has said the company

would have more flexibility to award stars for "very small transactions."

Kevin Johnson, chief operating officer for Starbucks, said people would not earn stars on the company's prepaid card at the same rate that they do for purchases at cafes. He said the rate of rewards for the prepaid card would be announced at a later date.

A representative for Chase said the Starbucks prepaid card will not have a monthly service or reloading fee that often come with prepaid cards. Chase said the card will have just three fees; a \$5 fee for a rush card replacement, a 3 per cent foreign transaction fee, and a

\$75 legal processing fee, which would be triggered if the bank was required to hold or pay out funds from the account as a result of a legal action.

Chase declined to disclose the terms of its financial arrangement with Starbucks for the prepaid card, but noted it has a "larger strategic partnership" with the coffee chain.

Greg McBride, chief financial analyst for Bankrate.com, said prepaid cards have been known in the past for having a variety of fees, but that the landscape has "changed dramatically for the better" for consumers. He said the biggest market for the cards is still people without bank accounts, but that families also use prepaid card as a way to control spending on vacations, or to give to their children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

125

The number of stars needed, starting April 12, to get a free drink or food item.



CHANTAL HÉBERT ON A THROWBACK BUDGET



Trudeau is walking on a budget tightrope over a fiscal safety net frayed by a decade of Conservative tax cuts. His budget does little to address a structural revenue shortfall.

For all the talk about a new activist federal era, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's first budget largely picks up where Paul Martin left off — at least when it comes to spending priorities.

Improving the terms of the relationship between Canada and its indigenous people was front and centre on the former Liberal prime minister's radar. At the time of its defeat in 2005, the Martin government was about to start implementing the Kelowna Accord.

Martin had also spent his final years as minister of finance advocating a new fiscal pact between the federal government and Canada's big cities. As prime minister, he had set out to translate his intentions into actions.

Both files emerged as major priorities in Tuesday's budget with billions of dollars to be spent on the municipal and indigenous fronts over the next few years.

But this week's budget also demonstrates that turning back the clock a decade is easier said than done. Much water or, in this case, much federal wealth in the shape of tax cuts has flowed under the bridge over the past 10 years.

Martin's spending plans were to be financed out of impressive federal budget surpluses, and he had a revenue base that ensured they would keep on coming.

By comparison, Trudeau is walking on a budget tightrope over a fiscal safety net frayed by a decade of Conservative tax cuts. Tuesday's Liberal budget does little to address a structural revenue shortfall.

On the contrary, instead of erasing Harper's fiscal footprint, the Liberals have chosen to tiptoe around it.

For, of all the signature Conservative policies, a twice-lowered GST seems the most likely to survive the transition to a different government. On the day after the budget, Trudeau categorically maintained that he would not be raising the tax back to its pre-Harper level of seven per cent.

This lack of political fortitude is understandable. The Liberals did not talk about the GST at the time of the election campaign. No party would then go near what strategists saw as the third rail of federal fiscal politics. There was no

political cover for Trudeau to talk about raising it before the election and there still is not now that he is in office.

Given a choice between slaying the sacred cow of a lower GST, or breaking with the doctrine of balanced budgets, Trudeau's Liberals determined that the path of least public resistance led to the latter.

But with every GST point worth about \$7 billion a year to a cash-starved federal government, good politics stands to make for crippling fiscal policy.

None of the other tax changes of the first Liberal budget really addresses the shrunken capacity of the federal government to raise revenues on par with its

policy ambitions.

A string of projected yearly deficits that stretches beyond the current mandate speaks to the existence of a structural gap between those ambitions and the fiscal capacity to fulfil them. More than a low-growth economic cycle is at play.

The last government to leave behind a solid budget surplus was that of Martin. None of the parties that ran in the last election would have produced a balanced budget this year without engaging in a round of spending cuts.

The main consequence of preserving Harper's GST legacy is to essentially leave the federal fiscal ship at the mercy of the vagaries of the world economy. But if the recent decade is any indication, it will be hard to raise that ship out of the red even in moderately good times and/or to keep it on a steady deficit-free course. With so much money committed to recurring tax cuts, it is hard to see how major federal initiatives on the social policy front would be sustainable in the future.

Based on the budget roadmap sketched out this week, one might presume either that any major spending such as more money for health care that did not make the cut of this first budget is unlikely to materialize over the course of the current mandate, or else that the deficit projections put forward by Finance Minister Bill Morneau — as high as they may seem — are actually a floor.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If Ghomeshi skates, a movement will be emboldened

Will Ghomeshi walk? The long stream of bombshells that was Jian Ghomeshi's sexual-assault trial comes down to that question.

And when Justice William B. Horkins delivers his verdict, journalists, lawyers and observers expect the same: Not guilty, on all counts.

Ghomeshi's lawyer, Marie Henein, left the proceedings swimming in reasonable doubt from pothole-ridden testimony. Consent was nowhere to be found, and it didn't matter.

But with apologies to the three complainants, for whom that certainly isn't the best outcome — a not-guilty sweep might be what Canada needs.

It would further galvanize the protests planned in Toronto today, and perhaps spur others. It would infuriate onlookers dismayed at the adversarial, even cruel, dynamics of the courtroom.

It wouldn't surprise sexual-violence advocates who have, for decades, watched an impotent justice system download the fallout of sexual assaults directly onto the victims, as it routinely fails to engender their trust.

But it will give those advocates an extra high-profile bit of ammunition. And they need all the help they can get.

It's been 40 years since rape-shield laws were introduced, and yet, still, only 90 per cent of sexual assaults are

reported to police, never mind adjudicated in the courts.

In past years, and again since the start of this trial, various reforms have been batted around, including creating a courts for sexual assaults, inspired by those for mental health sufferers. Also: restorative justice; trying sexual assaults as civil cases, in which where the burden of proof is a "balance of probabilities," instead of the "beyond a shadow of a doubt" standard of criminal court; and dedicated lawyers for complainants, to correct the imbalance that results when only the accused gets a lawyer in a he-said-she-said trial where physical evidence and third-party witnesses are in short supply.

Each idea has merit, and yet nothing has been done. This country needs anger.

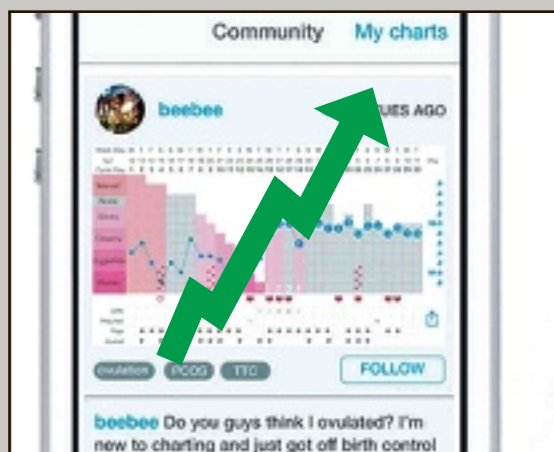
An acquittal may well be the correct verdict, in legal terms. It could also be the correct sentence in a trial that has been set up, from the beginning, as our big chance to collectively witness systemic failings, and demand change.

Pamela Cross, a lawyer and long-time advocate for sexual assault victims, already believes the conditions are right, regardless of the verdict.

"Canadians are talking about sexual assault in a way that really has never happened before," she told me.

But if we need that extra push, not-guilty could do it.

THE MICROTREND: Fertility Awareness Technology



With trust in pharmaceutical companies not what it once was (and condom approval ratings about where they've always been), women either seeking or avoiding pregnancy are choosing in greater numbers to rely not on drugs or polymer prophylactics but on ... their own bodies. Apps like Glow, Clue and Kindara (one of whose founders hails from Toronto) make it easier for women to monitor body temperature, fluids, and other menstrual indicators so that they can take control of their fertility. Outside of activity trackers, they happen to be the most downloaded health apps in the Apple Store. SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES; IMAGE: KINDARA.COM

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Henry Cavill is the latest incarnation of Superman in *Batman v Superman*, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

BATMAN V SUPERMAN

From the film to the box office, superheroes fight it out

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Superhero geeks need not fear, this column will contain no spoilers.

In *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, the world's two most famous caped crime fighters throw down, wrestling literally and figuratively to determine what kind of hero is best suited to serve the world's needs.

The story picks up after the action in *Man of Steel*, which

saw Superman (the square-jawed Henry Cavill) protect the planet by destroying half of Metropolis in an epic battle with the evil General Zod (Michael Shannon).

Batman (Ben Affleck), unimpressed with the collateral damage, joins the contingent of folks who see the Last Son of Krypton not as a champion but an alien threat. A battle ensues.

Who will win? Other than Kryptonite, Superman has no known weaknesses, so this would seem like a fairly one-sided fight, but Batman has skills as well, so who knows?

To get to the bottom of the matter I held a highly unscientific Facebook *Batman v Superman* poll to determine a winner. It drew mixed results.

"Brains over brawn," wrote one FB friend, "Batman for the win!"



MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 ★★
Eye in the Sky ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS

★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

"Superman could basically fly down at super speed striking Batman before he could even sense he was coming and turn the Bat into vapour," wrote a Superman fan.

Another wasn't so sure. "Both seem to wear their underwear over their pants... it is a tough call." Whatever the outcome, expect a wild showdown. But that's on screen. It's make-believe. What about *Reel Life v Real Life*?

The Caped Crusader and Supes have been duking it

out for decades at the box office but Batman, specifically the Christian Bale era, comes out on top. The *Dark Knight Rises* and *The Dark Knight KO* the competition, with the 1978 *Superman*, the first Tim Burton *Batman* and the recent *Man of Steel* rounding out the top five.

Batman also brings in the lion's share of the marketing money. According to comic-bookmovie.com *Batman* sells almost two-to-one to *Superman* products.

That means more parents

dress their kids as *Batman* than *Superman* at Halloween and that includes Ben Affleck and Christian Bale who met at a costume store last year as they shopped for *Batman* outfits for their kids.

What about prestige? Again *Batman* is victorious, with three Academy Award winners — Affleck, Bale and George Clooney — playing the Bat at one time or another.

As for the Metropolis Marvel, Oscar winners Robert Redford and Clint Eastwood both turned down the role as did best actor nominee James Caan who said, "There's no way I'm wearing that silly suit." Oscar winner Nic Cage wore the suit but his *Superman* story never made it before the cameras.

So far my *Reel Life v Real Life* look at *Batman v Superman* favours the Dark Knight,

but Clark Kent's alter ego is still a formidable foe.

Keep in mind, without *Superman* there may never have been a *Batman*.

Predating the Caped Crusader, the *Man of Steel* is a pioneer whose popularity helped create the superhero genre. Since then he's been ubiquitous, inspiring an American Sign Language symbol, movie serials, TV shows, comic strips, pop songs — (Wish I Could Fly Like) *Superman* by The Kinks among many others — and even a Broadway musical called *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman*.

Finally, as one of my Facebook friends pointed out, *Superman* has at least one insurmountable advantage over *Batman*: "If *Superman* loses the fight he can fly back in time to fight again."

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Greek Wedding star calls out Hollywood

NIA VARDALOS

On battling sexism in Tinseltown and onscreen

It wasn't long after *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* exploded at the box office that Hollywood began pestering its star Nia Vardalos for a sequel.

The Winnipeg-bred breakout declined, turning instead to other comedic followups including *Connie and Carla*, *I Hate Valentine's Day* and *My Life in Ruins*.

But none had the impact of her surprising family-friendly smash, which centred on an unassuming Greek woman who falls in love with a non-Greek suitor, played by John Corbett.

Vardalos adds she was also focused on other matters, including efforts to become a mother that resulted in the adoption of a little girl.

Now older, wiser and inspired by her own new family adven-

tures, Vardalos reprises her role as Toula Portokalos in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*.

Vardalos chatted with *The Canadian Press* by phone from New York.

Tell me about some projects over the years that haven't been able to take root.

I definitely lost control and then gained it and lost it. It is a process and getting a film made is difficult, period. Hollywood is still the most archaic place. It is the one place where a review can talk about a woman's looks and you can not get a job simply because you're female. It's outdated and we have to push through.

Can you describe some of these scripts you've been asked to rework?

It will say about the female: "Late 20s. Beautiful but doesn't know it. Kittenish, sexy." (And then) it'll say: "Guy, 40s. A sense of being that far exceeds his years." You know, there's no reference to being handsome ...

It'll never say: "Chiselled jaw line, pecs to die for." Can you imagine reading that in a screenplay? It wouldn't be written and people would laugh out loud. But it's certainly written about the women. And we just call them on it, we just laugh.

We've had symposiums at the Writers Guild with men and women there talking about how when ... we have to incite peril for a woman during sweeps' week the writers will pitch, 'OK, so let's get her raped.' And it's rough. It's really, really bad. We're creating a rape culture. And we're trying to pull back from it and that's what these meetings do where we have to call each other on what we're doing wrong. And try to get things out there.

It's really, really hard to get a family comedy made, especially a PG-13 one.... If this movie doesn't do well there will be another 15 years where we wait for another one. And that's a bummer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nia Vardalos and John Corbett are reunited in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*. HANDOUT

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MUSIC

Rap pioneer and Tribe Called Quest member Phife Dawg dies

Phife Dawg, a masterful lyricist whose witty wordplay was a linchpin of the groundbreaking hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest, died Tuesday from complications resulting from diabetes, his family said in a statement Wednesday. He was 45.

Dawg, born Malik Isaac Taylor, was known as the Five Foot Assassin because he was 5 feet 3 inches tall but earned respect for his skilful, thoughtful rhymes.

Dawg was part of number of

rap classics with Tribe, including *Scenario*, *Bonita Applebum* and *Can I Kick It?*

Dawg grew up in Queens, New York, with fellow Tribe member Q-Tip. In high school, the two members met Ali Shaheed Muhammad, who is from Brooklyn, to form Tribe. Jarobi White later joined the group. The group recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of its debut album.

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Phife Dawg. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Eye in the Sky targets drone warfare

MILITARY THRILLER

Director kept seeing Helen Mirren as mission leader

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Drones are certainly one of the technological marvels of the modern age — albeit a curiosity that is fraught with controversy.

In fact, military drones have specifically been scrutinized for the perception that the remote-controlled flying gadgets are largely responsible for reckless deaths in war zones. For former lawyer-turned-filmmaker Gavin Hood, it was an issue absolutely ripe for the cinema.

“For me, the script was an invitation to a highly-charged debate,” explained Hood while promoting his new drama *Eye in the Sky*. “It presents multiple points-of-view and moral, ethical and legal arguments

around the question of drone warfare and leaves the audience in the position of a juror in a jury trial.”

The taut thriller focuses in particular on a mission led by an authoritative military colonel (played by Helen Mirren) set on taking out via drone the terrorist she’s tracked for years. However, when a nine-year old Kenyan innocent gets within range, the showdown to strike escalates into a fiery moral incident.

“When I was reading the script, I just kept seeing Helen Mirren in my head,” said Hood of the mission leader that was originally written as a male character. “I kept thinking which actor could play this role and it had nothing to do with gender. (A film like this) needs actors who can give you what she does so well — which is moments of humor, moments of nuance, moments of manipulation — that enrich every scene.”

Hood adds modifying the military role for Mirren also had little to do with the recent raucous raised by a recent USC study spotlighting Hollywood’s major diversity problem. In-



Helen Mirren stars as a colonel on a mission in highly charged drama *Eye in the Sky*. HANDOUT

stead, his choice simply reflected a humble attempt to craft an authentic story.

“The fact is that more and more women are joining the military,” stated the 52-year-old director behind hits like *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* and 2006’s *Foreign Language* Oscar-winner Tsotsi. “There are

women in (military intelligence officer) roles and there are more and more women in the role of drone sensor operators, drone pilots and behind the scenes, which is why there are so many women in the film. That’s not us being politically correct, that’s just a reality of what’s happening.”

FILM NOTES

Time in army fuels plot

Gavin Hood was drafted into the army at 17 — something that informed his filmmaking career.

“As a young person starting out making films you don’t necessarily know why you’re drawn to certain things,” said Hood. “But now that I’m over 50, I do seem to still be working out a great deal of questions (from) those two years in the military.”

Director Gavin Hood
HANDOUT



In memoriam...

Eye in the Sky will also mark one of respected thespian Alan Rickman’s very last films — having passed away in January.

“This was a man of wonderful intelligence, genuine kindness, great wit and I think we were very lucky to have him in the film,” said Hood.

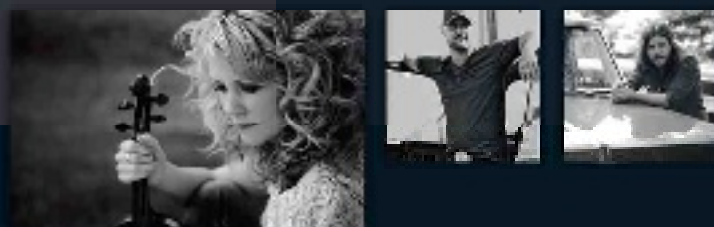
“What he’s able to do with just the raise of any eyebrow or the slightest twist on a line is enrich a scene.”

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Amy Adams is no damsel in distress

INTERVIEW

Actress returns as Lois Lane and dishes on her super role

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



Amy Adams steps back into the iconic role of Lois Lane for *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* three years after her first outing, *Man of Steel*.

Just don't call her a damsel in distress.

While her character may still need rescuing from time to time, the fact that it's Superman doing the rescuing should count for something, right?

This movie had quite a lengthy production.

I don't know how long, I was involved for about six months of it, on and off. Coming and going, so yeah. But they prepped for a really long time.

That's the thing that nobody sees, all the prep that goes into it. They're prep-



Amy Adams comes out to play Lois Lane a second time in *Batman v Superman*. CONTRIBUTED

BEN AFFLECK

Putting rumours to rest

While doing press for *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, Ben Affleck has found himself addressing a lot of misconceptions.

One he's more than happy to clear up? The suggestion that he was originally offered the gig of directing 2013's *Man of*

Steel before Zack Snyder. "It's not true that I turned down *Man of Steel*," Affleck insists. "I learned a lot from Zack on this movie."

"One of the really valuable things about it for me, aside from the personal experience of playing the part, was watching a guy who really understands how to make films on this level, with cutting-edge technology, combining in-camera stuff with visual effects and stunts and all the tools at a director's disposal, and seeing how Zack meticulously constructed them using hand-drawn storyboards, frame by frame and evolving into the movie that you saw, in a fairly consistent vision."

NED EHRBAR/METRO



ping Justice League right now, so I'm sure Zack's exhausted.

In taking on an icon like Lois Lane, what do you think are the more intrinsic parts about the character that you have to get across?

I think she's kind of a little ball-busting. I'd like to put it nicer, but I don't know how to put it nicer. She's sassy! (laughs) But yeah, she kind of has a lot of moxie, so you've got to get that across.

You know, you have to get that she kind of goes into situations that get her in a lot of trouble, that require a certain amount of rescuing. I shy away from "damsel in distress," though.

You have to kind of build that into the character as a

sort of energy that you feel like she's a woman who fought her way to where she is and really digs in.

The fact that she gets to be rescued by Superman rather than she just needing to be rescued by a normal person ...

She understands going into these situations, there's a very real possibility that dangerous things can and will happen to her.

So I don't think she goes in with the idea that someone will save her — well, maybe she does now that she's got an in.

"Oh, I wouldn't mess with me, it doesn't end well, I've seen it. I've seen what happens." He can get here really fast. Super fast.

It feels like Superman hasn't done a very good

job explaining himself to the human race in general, but he seems to communicate well with Lois.

I think she's in a relationship with Clark, and the rest of the world is in a relationship with Superman, so I know him as a human being, his human side. I know he's an alien, but I know him as a man — Clark the man.

It's nice to get to play to with Clark because Lois doesn't always get to do that in the history of Lois.

She's usually not in a relationship with Clark, she's in a relationship with Superman.

Do you have an idea of where that can go?

She accepts that they're same person. Superman is the title that's been given to him by the world, but she calls him Clark.

She's never like, "Superman!" She calls after him, it's always Clark. He's just Clark to her.

That bathtub scene had to be either a really fun day at work or a really aggravating day at work.

It's not aggravating, it's not fun. It's just another day at the office in my flesh-colored underwear. (laughs)

Hopefully they keep the water warm.

They keep the water warm. They treat me with a ton of respect. It is tricky, for my own modesty and because they can't use the take if you see anything, so it's a very fine balance.

They did a good job. There were some bath salts and stuff. I think it's actually milk powder. My skin ended up very soft. There have been worse days.

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New author hopes novel meets buzz

LITERATURE

The Nest tells of four adult siblings' fight for inheritance

Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney was on her way to meet her family for brunch in New York when she had an idea for the opening scene of her debut novel,

The Nest.

Sweeney imagined family members "all needing to meet but all needing a drink before they met and all getting their drink in proximity to each other without knowing that they were all doing the same thing," she said in a recent phone interview from her home in Los Angeles.

She was intrigued by why they needed to drink before seeing one another and what the meeting was about.

As for The Nest, Sweeney said she's surprised by "how little I had to know going in. I wrote my way along. When I would start to panic I would just remind myself that I only had to figure out what happened in the next chapter, what happened in the next scene. I didn't have to be looking way, way down the road. What surprised me is when you take that incremental approach, you do reach a tipping point where all of a sudden

things start to come together."

As Sweeney found her story, she also found a lot of interest from the publishing world.

The Nest, which was published Tuesday, was snapped up in a seven-figure deal by Ecco, a HarperCollins imprint.

A book trailer featuring actress Ellie Kemper and Transparent creator Jill Soloway talking about their own families is available online.

Amy Poehler praises the book

as "intoxicating" in a quote on the front cover of The Nest.

"She's been a friend of mine for a long time; I'm really, really lucky," Sweeney said.

"Amy and I met right after she moved to New York, and in fact, we met in a book club. It was very short-lived. It was a lot of performers in the comedy improv world, so everyone was always cancelling at the last minute. Finally it was like, 'Why don't we go out for cocktails instead? Forget the book part.'"

Sweeney said one of the "weirdest" things for her has been all the talk about the book before its publication date. "My family members are really confused. I keep getting emails like, 'How are there reviews on Amazon? When can we get the book?'"

So, why does she think people are so interested in



the novel?

"The combination of family and money is very potent and it really, really seems to strike a chord with people."

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Project overview

The Eddy, an attractive, six-storey green condominium in Hintonburg, is now ready for buyers. In fact, some of the building's 52 units are already occupied. The project began in November 2012, and today's result is a modern structure that aims for innovative sustainability and energy efficiency.

Housing amenities

Each unit is designed by Altblu, an Ottawa-based interior design studio, meaning that every unit can be styled to the buyer's taste. Selling features include exposed concrete ceilings, wide-plank wood flooring, quartz counters and EnergyStar appliances. The building offers a rooftop patio, geothermal heating and cooling and indoor parking.

In the neighbourhood

Hintonburg is one of Ottawa's older neighbourhoods, and yet it's still a trendy, exciting community with plenty of events and activities going on. The area has attracted an abundance of excellent restaurants, fancy cafés and beer breweries, making it a lively, enjoyable place to live.

Location and transit

The Eddy is close to Hwy 417, the O-train and main bus routes. It will also be conveniently close to the upcoming Light Rail Transit. The location is practically on the doorstep of downtown Ottawa, but is still close to plenty of green space and its own vibrant community.

ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO



THE EDDY IN HINTONBURG

CONTRIBUTED

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: The Eddy in Hintonburg
Builder: Windmill Developments
Designer: Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc.
Location: : 1000 Wellington St. W.
Building: Green condominium
Sizes: 675 square feet to

1,100 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting at \$384,900
Model: 1 to 2 bedrooms, 1 to 2 bathrooms
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Anytime
Sales centre: 436 Sparks St.
Phone: 613-867-0659
Website: windmilldevelopments.com

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Paper napkins can make for eggcellent design.

DIY Easter-egg decor as easy as decoupage

CRAFTING

These add springtime ambience to any room

Handcrafted egg decorations are a fun Easter tradition. Decoupage eggs using paper napkin cut-outs is an easy way to dress them up without messy dyes. Skip the time consuming egg-blowing ritual and opt for faux eggs that you can use to decorate your table or add to gift baskets throughout the season.

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies:

- Decorative paper napkins with a white background
- Eggs (we used plastic ones from a dollar store)
- Paintbrush

- Decoupage glue (we used Modge Podge in matte)
- Scissors

Step 2: Cut out shapes from paper napkins:

Using scissors, loosely cut around the areas of the napkin you wish to use to decorate your eggs.

The edges will blend into the egg surface. Napkins are made up of multiple layers. Peel away the printed top layer so that you end up with one thin piece.

Thinner pieces of paper are easier to apply to the egg.

Step 3: Start decoupage:

Using the paintbrush, apply the glue to the area of the egg you wish to decorate, and then carefully press the cut paper shape to the egg.

Smooth out the paper shape from the centre outwards using your finger-



To save time, you can skip the egg blowing and get plastic eggs. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

tips. Let dry for a few minutes.

Step 4: Apply a second coat of glue.

Using the paintbrush, apply a second coat of glue

over the decorated area. This helps seal the paper to the egg. The glue will be dry in about one hour, but plan on giving the more time to dry completely. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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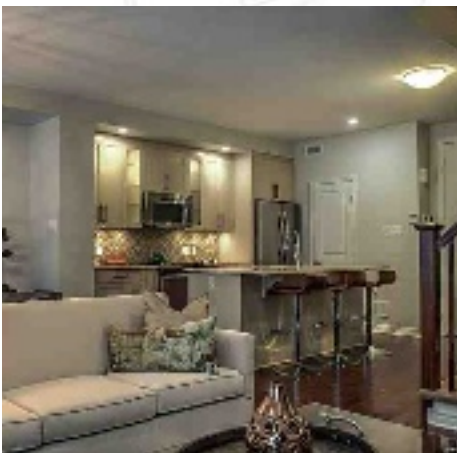
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Jays' Tulowitzki escapes with rap on the knuckles

MLB
Star shortstop just day to day after being hit by Mets' Colon

Toronto shortstop Troy Tulowitzki left in the fourth inning of the Blue Jays' 3-1 win over the New York Mets on Wednesday after being hit on the right hand by a pitch from Bartolo Colon.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said Tulowitzki was struck on the knuckles and will have X-rays. Gibbons said the Blue Jays think the injury isn't major.

"It's swollen a little bit and he cut it up a little bit, too," Gibbons said. "It's a sensitive area, hands and all that. Hopefully it's nothing."

The club later confirmed that the shortstop — acquired from the Rockies during the hectic trade deadline splash by then GM Alex Anthopoulos last term — had avoided serious injury.

\$109 million

Troy Tulowitzki has \$109 million and six years remaining on his current contract with the Jays.



Troy Tulowitzki grimaces after being hit in Wednesday's game against the Mets.
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Bone bruise to right hand on knuckles. X-ray came back negative and he is listed as day-to-day," was the update from the club's Twitter account.

Toronto slugger Jose Bautista was a late scratch due to neck stiffness, a move Gibbons said was precautionary.

Coming off a start Friday against Washington in which he allowed eight runs over five innings, Colon limited the Blue

Jays to three hits — including two by Darrell Ceciliani — over six scoreless innings.

Toronto's Aaron Sanchez, bidding to be the fifth starter, scattered four hits in 6-1/3 shutout innings. He has given up three earned runs in 19-2/3 innings and five appearances.

"They both get ground balls all day long," Gibbons said of Colon and Sanchez.

Colon had six strikeouts,

while Sanchez picked up four. Neither had a walk.

"Bartolo was doing his thing out there," Sanchez said.

Gibbons said DH-1B Edwin Encarnacion, dealing with an oblique issue for the past two weeks, is getting better. He could soon get at-bats in a minor league game. Jays infielder Ryan Goins didn't play due to flu-like symptoms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ STRO' THE MAN

Ace named Jays' opener
 Marcus Stroman will start for the Toronto Blue Jays in the American League opener at Tampa Bay on April 3.

Manager John Gibbons made the expected announcement Wednesday.

"I'm honoured, I'm humbled," Stroman said after throwing in a minor league game.

Gibbons also didn't rule out Stroman starting the home opener on April 8 against Boston. Stroman said starting both openers would be "awesome."

"I would definitely accept that and run with it," he said. "This past year there were a lot of ups and downs. I'm thankful to be in the position. It's my first opening day. I can't wait."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marcus Stroman GETTY IMAGES

INJURY WOE Subban preaches patience

P.K. Subban says he won't rush back to action if there is any risk of making a "scary" neck injury worse.

The Montreal Canadiens star defenceman spoke to the media Wednesday for the first time since he suffered the injury late in a 3-2 win over the Sabres on March 10. He skated in his first full practice with the team since the incident.

"I have to follow what the doctors say," said Subban, who has missed six games. "I've still got some symptoms from the injury and they don't want me back unless I'm at 100 per cent."

"I want to be patient. It's the first time in my career I've been out because of an injury."

He will accompany the team to Detroit but Subban won't play Thursday. The Bell Centre fell silent with 2:26 left against Buffalo when Alexei Emelin crashed into the fallen Subban's head. Team medical staff put him on a stretcher and Subban gave a little hand signal as he left to show he was OK.

"The first thing I wanted to do, because I knew it was my neck, was to move my hands and my legs. Also, if my parents were watching, they could see that my hands were moving and stuff," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



P.K. Subban.
 GETTY IMAGES





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Perry Ellis is a front-court force for Kansas, averaging 16.9 points and 5.9 rebounds.

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Kansas expects big test from Maryland

NCAA

No.1 Jayhawks' road to Final Four gets tough vs. Terrapins

Kansas played like the overall No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament with two decisive wins to reach the Sweet 16 for the first time in three years.

The Jayhawks extended their winning streak to 16 games, and look to continue that momentum as the competition is expected to get much tougher. Next up is No. 5-seed Maryland in Thursday night's South Region semifinal, and don't expect the Terps to throw anything at them they haven't seen.

"I'm not too worried about that situation because we're pretty battle-tested and have been through a lot," junior guard Wayne Selden Jr. said Wednesday. "We've been in just about every position we could be in and been in tough

positions where we've dug ourselves out of it. That's been our mode lately."

Maryland often has played up and — on occasion — down to the level of its opponent, a pattern that suggests they'll be at their best against Kansas (32-4). The Terrapins (27-8) fought through a tough opening weekend, outlasting South Dakota State before rallying past Hawaii in the second round to reach their first Sweet 16 since 2003.

"I expect Kansas to play well and expect us to play well," Maryland coach Mark Turgeon said. "Our guys will be fired up because they have a lot of respect for Kansas, and they're the

best team in the tournament. That gets our attention."

Both teams see similarities in each other.

Kansas features a strong backcourt in Selden (13.6 points per game), junior Frank Mason III (12.8) and sophomore Devonte' Graham (11.4). Maryland counters with sophomore Melo Trimble (14.8) and senior Rasheed Sulaimon (11.1).

The schools also feature impressive frontcourts with six-foot-11 freshman Diamond Stone leading Maryland while senior Perry Ellis (16.9 points, 5.9 rebounds) anchors things for Kansas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ SWEET 16 MATCHUPS

THURSDAY

Miami (3) vs. Villanova (2)
Texas A&M (3)
vs. Oklahoma (2)
Maryland (5) vs. Kansas (1)
Duke (4) vs. Oregon (1)

FRIDAY

Iowa State (4) vs. Virginia (1)
Wisconsin (7)
vs. Notre Dame (6)
Gonzaga (11) vs. Syracuse (10)
Indiana (5)
vs. North Carolina (1)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Carey stumbles late in loss to Koreans

Canada's Chelsea Carey missed the final shot in the 10th end as her Calgary-based rink lost to South Korea's Ji Sun Kim 8-7 on Wednesday afternoon in Draw 13 of the women's curling world championship.

Carey (6-2) struggled with draw weight in the first half of the game, but used a well-placed takeout in the eighth for a decisive lead.

Looking for a simple takeout in the 10th, Carey threw through the house with South

Korea sitting two.

Kim (4-3) took advantage of Canada's early struggles to take control of the game early.

Canada, with the hammer, opened the first end with a blank. Carey came up well short on a draw in the second end, giving South Korea a steal of two for the lead. Carey then tied it 2-2 with a hit and roll in the third end, recovering from her earlier gaffe.

Third Amy Nixon threw a pair of offline rocks in the fourth end, digging a hole

for Canada. Carey recovered though with a double takeout to minimize the damage, forcing Korean fourth Un Chi Gim to throw a draw for one and a 3-2 lead. A blank in the fifth kept the score 3-2.

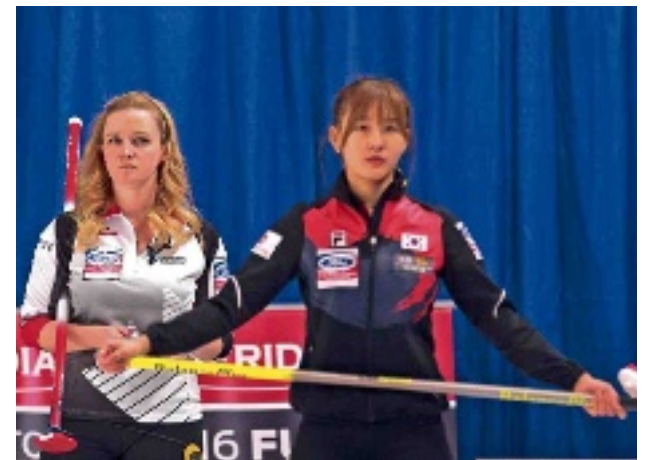
Carey opened the second half with a double in a crowded house, taking a 4-2 out of the sixth. Gim then drew in for a single to tie it 4-4 in the seventh.

A perfectly placed single takeout for a triple by Carey in the eighth end brought

the Canadian fans in attendance in Swift Current, Sask., at Credit Union i-Plex to their feet with cowbells ringing out in celebration.

South Korea replied with a double in the ninth end to make it 7-6, then Carey's last stone in the 10th end was weighted too heavy and Kim picked up the decisive two-point steal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Canada's game against Finland.



Canada skip Chelsey Carey, left, looks on as Korean skip Ji Sun Kim lines up a shot. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Dion undeterred by loonie

The low Canadian dollar will not deter Quebecor Inc. from pursuing its goal of landing a NHL franchise in Quebec City, the media conglomerate's CEO said Wednesday.

The "destination remains the same," Pierre Dion said in a reference to the provincial capital, which has been without a team since the Nordiques left for Colorado in 1995.

"That's where I want to reassure people. But it's true that the reality of the dollar is still there." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Day slowed by back pain

Jason Day overcame an early deficit to win his opening match Wednesday in the Dell Match Play. Now he has to overcome a bad back.

In the latest in a series of injuries for Day, he was reaching for his back for a couple of holes until he winced and grabbed it after a tee shot on the 16th hole. He took a knee on the green, where he closed out Graeme McDowell, 3 and 2.

Day headed straight for the fitness trailer for treatment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Croatia starts Euro prep with win over Israel

Inter Milan teammates Ivan Perisic and Marcelo Brozovic scored in the first half as Croatia began its preparations for the European Championship with a 2-0 victory over Israel at home in a friendly in Osijek on Wednesday.

Captain Darjo Srna limped off late in the first half after being on the receiving end of a rough tackle.

In another friendly, Slovenia beat Macedonia 1-0. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Euros won't bow to fear

Striking a defiant tone, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls says it is "vital" this summer's European Championship in France goes ahead to show the country will not cower in the wake of the deadly attacks in Brussels and Paris.

"Big sporting events, big cultural events, are vital to show that we are a free people standing on our feet," Valls said on Wednesday. "So, yes, Euro 2016 and the Tour de France will take place."

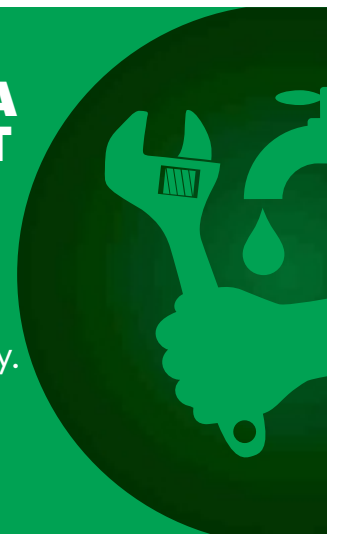
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



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Time: 5 mins

Ingredients

- 1 carrot, grated or slice
- 1/2 English cucumber, grated
- 1/2 avocado, sliced
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup light cream cheese
- 4 slices of whole grain bread

Directions

1. Begin by grating your carrot and grating or slicing cucumber into bowls. Now halve

your avocado. Gently slice it in the shell and turn the slices out onto a plate. Sprinkle the slices with lemon juice to keep them from browning

2. Now it's time to assemble. Place four slices of bread down on a clean cutting board. Load two with cream cheese to your desired thickness

3. Sprinkle your desired amount of carrot and cucumber over the cheese and gently press it into the bread using the back of a wooden spoon or your hand.

4. Arrange a few slices of avocado on the remaining two pieces of bread. Pair up your avocado halves with the cheese halves and serve.

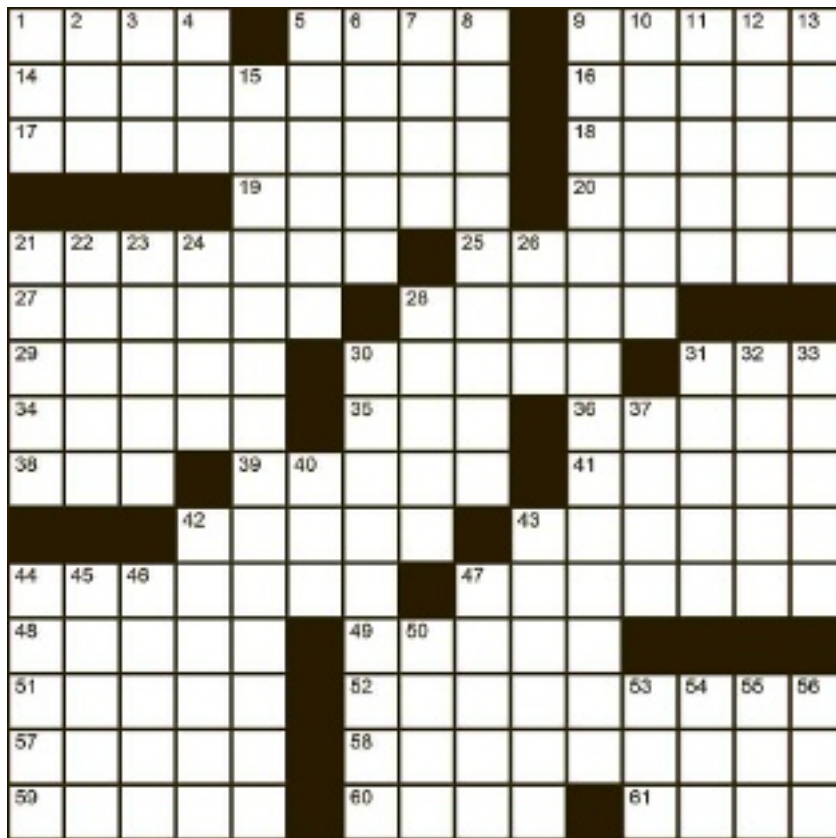
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Guzzle the Guinness
5. Light rain
9. Perilous precipitation
14. Basket or box
16. Writer, Oscar __ (b.1854 - d.1900)
17. Nova Scotia's provincial tree: 2 wds.
18. Mirror's mirroring
19. Rigatoni or macaroni
20. George Harrison played it on "Norwegian Wood"
21. Lodging, in Lyon
25. "Automatic": 1984 hit for The Pointer __
27. Person sitting for the sketching artist, say
28. Easter story betrayer
29. Like porridge bits
30. Hurting more
31. Purpose
34. Sanctified, olde-style
35. "Faster!"
36. Thanks, in Rimouski
38. Tee's alphabetical predecessor
39. Golf club types
41. Talks and talks [var. sp.]
42. Hightails it
43. Concurs
44. The Easter Bunny's savings: 2 wds.
47. Metal castings factory
48. Optical layers
49. "That '70s Show" star Ms. Prepon
51. Mr. Carradine of Madonna's music video



"Material Girl"

52. Commonwealth country
57. Tedium
58. Dedicated/dependable
59. Super slope-y
60. Landscaping rolls
- 61.. Variety

DOWN

1. "Born on the Bayou" band, briefly
2. Uprooter of small weeds
3. And, in Munich
4. Initials-sharers of Sulu's portrayer on "Star Trek"
5. Oasis, to someone

lost in the desert

6. Operating: 2 wds.
7. Splinter group
8. Chests contents at sea
9. The Pope's protection: 3 wds.
10. Restricts
11. Raise the spirits with joy

12. For Better or For Worse dog
13. Ready-for-play golfers
15. Set-in-Quebec movie of 1974, "The __ of Duddy Kravitz"
21. .pdf files program, __ Acrobat
22. Russian moun-

- tain chain
23. Kathy of "Misery" (1990)
24. Rearing ruminants
26. 'Fluor' suffix
28. Connects
30. Whisky holder in the bar: 2 wds.
31. Bowled, like a rainbow
32. One who finds things yucky, perhaps
33. Ms. Gold of "Benson"
37. Net dollars
40. Dusting cloth
42. Museum's marble man
43. Major blood arteries
44. Informally uses the microwave
45. Incident
46. Sight from the Eiffel Tower
47. Melded
50. Delivery to the dealership
53. Situated at the ship's stern
54. Do some of a mason's work
55. To-the-Internet connection, for short
56. Finished the food

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20
You have strong ideas about politics, religion and racial issues today, and you want to express them. This could cause a problem with a friend or partner.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21
Behind-the-scenes research reveals how you can get funds or assistance. Nevertheless, be prepared for interruptions to your work day. Computer crashes, canceled meetings and staff shortages are examples.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21
You can convince anyone of anything today because your mind is alert and energetic! Parents should be vigilant about potential accidents for their kids.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a great day to talk to bosses and authority figures because they will be impressed with you. Nevertheless, this could upset someone at home or in your family.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is an accident-prone day. Your daily routine will be interrupted — you can count on this. Allow extra time so that you have wiggle room to deal with things.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Keep an eye on your money today, because you might find money or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss or theft. Be leery of someone who sweet talks a deal.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A close friend or partner might surprise you today. One thing is certain: Conversations will be dynamic and productive! Expect fast action.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will impress work colleagues today, because your mind is in overdrive and you see everything clearly. (This also will help you to cope with unexpected interruptions on the job.)

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be vigilant, as this is an accident-prone day for your kids. However, this also is a creative day for those who work in the arts and an active day for those in sports.

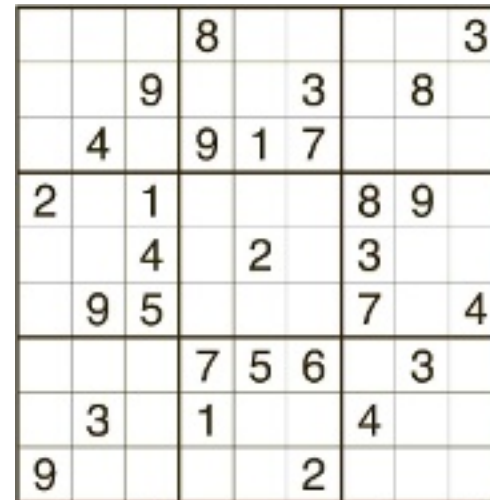
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Family discussions will be dynamic today. You will want to give your two cents' worth. Stay light on your feet, because it's a fast-changing day!

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your daily routine will change today because of cancelled meetings, minor accidents and surprises. Pay attention to everything you say and do. Fortunately, you're on top of things!

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a strong day for business and commerce. You will persuade others to agree with you. However, something unexpected will catch you off-guard, so be prepared.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

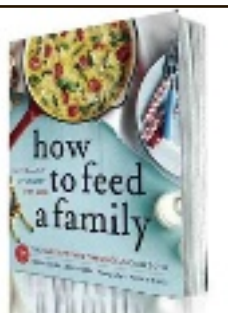
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Premier Kathleen Wynne is privatizing the provincially-owned Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, which generates annual profits of \$2 billion. So now, profits from gaming in Ontario will go to wealthy corporations rather than to Ontario's underfunded hospitals, schools and infrastructure. As part of this plan, Premier Wynne is attacking the pensions and wages of OLG workers in order to make operations more attractive to private buyers. Indeed, she has locked out workers at the Rideau Carleton Slots here in Ottawa for over three months for trying to defend their wages and pensions. OLG privatization is a lose-lose proposition for Ontario taxpayers and workers, and it's high time Wynne's Liberals put an end to it.

It's time for OLG to
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